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## ISRAELI GOVERNMENT STANDS FIRM, REFUSING TO LET DEPORTEES RETURN

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 21 (JTA) -- As Israel's High Court of Justice continued hearing challenges Monday to the expulsion of 415 Moslem fundamentalist activists to Lebanon, the government stood firm in its decision to refuse the deportees permission to return.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told the Knesset on Monday that he had "no pity in my heart" for the expelled activists, who earlier in the day had made a televised effort to cross back into the Israeli-controlled security zone in southern Lebanon.

The chief of the army's Central Command, Maj. Gen. Danny Yatom, vowed Israel would use "all the means at our disposal" to prevent the activists from crossing into Israeli-held territory.

In the end, the deportees backed off from their attempt to walk back to Israeli-held territory when confronted across the demarcation line by troops of the Israeli-allied South Lebanon Army.

In Jerusalem, meanwhile, the High Court was reviewing written appeals filed by lawyers for the deportees in support of arguments made at the beginning of the week before a seven-justice bench. The court announced it would reconvene Tuesday morning in public session.

The court planned to hear a government response to the claims before deciding whether to order the return of the deportees pending a final ruling on the legality of the mass deportation.

In the Knesset, Rabin accused the world of hypocrisy in its criticism of Israel's action.

"This is the same world that said nothing when 300,000 Palestinians were deported from Kuwait" and when "thousands are killed and raped in Bosnia," the prime minister observed.

"For some reason, the world likes to cry on our shoulders. Fortunately, we have broad enough shoulders," he said.

### **'Crush The Head Of The Snake'**

Referring to "the crocodile tears of the media," Rabin said he found himself thinking of the orphans and widows of border policeman Nissim Toledano and other recent Israeli victims of murders perpetrated by Hamas activists.

He added that "we alone shall be the arbiters" of "what is needed for our security."

The prime minister spoke in response to a no-confidence motion against the government introduced by Ariel Sharon of the opposition Likud bloc.

The motion later failed by a large majority, when two right-wing opposition parties, Tsomet and the National Religious Party, abstained in a show of support for the deportations.

In his remarks to the parliament, Rabin said the mass expulsion was an "extraordinary measure" designed "to crush the head of the snake."

He said the Cabinet, which on Sunday reaffirmed its expulsion decision and rejected demands for the return of the deportees, had fully understood the likely consequences of the move.

The prime minister termed the notion that the deportees were now situated in a "no man's

land" a "media falsehood." The area is under Lebanese army control, he said.

He also accused the Lebanese government of cynically trying to manipulate world opinion by barring international relief organizations from assisting the deportees.

Rabin cited the Lebanese defense minister who had been quoted Monday on Lebanese radio as saying such actions were designed "to help the lawyers who are defending the deportees."

The prime minister said Israel was seeking to awaken "a sleeping world" to the dangers of Islamic fundamentalism. "This is the real threat to world peace in future years," he said. "Just as Israel was the first to alert the world to the Iraqi nuclear threat, so, too, now we are in the front line of the battle against this threat."

At the same time, Rabin stressed Israel's determination to press ahead with the peace process. He said some progress had been made in each track of the negotiations, except with Lebanon.

He predicted that negotiations would resume as scheduled, following the Jan. 20 presidential inauguration of Bill Clinton in Washington.

### **BEHIND THE HEADLINES:**

**ISRAELIS SPLIT OVER THE EXPULSIONS,  
WITH SOME APPALLED, OTHERS RELIEVED**  
By Michele Chabin

JERUSALEM, Dec. 21 (JTA) -- The brutal murder of Israeli border policeman Nissim Toledano last week and the subsequent deportation of 415 Palestinians from the administered territories have sent shockwaves through the country.

The two incidents have struck a raw nerve among Israelis, who are deeply divided on the question of how to combat terrorism.

Human rights groups here have strongly condemned the expulsions, while victims of Arab terror are openly applauding the unprecedented Israeli action. Somewhere in between stand most Israelis.

Aaron Back of B'tselem, the Israeli Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, believes the expulsions are "a blatant and extremely grave violation of human rights and customary law."

"We believe that the deportations are illegal, even according to Israel's own reading of the Fourth Geneva Convention," he said.

Avigdor Feldman, one of the lawyers representing the deportees, told Israel's High Court of Justice last week that the expulsions "endanger the safety and welfare of those who have been deported."

"The deportees have been sent to the middle of nowhere. We may as well have thrown them into the sea," he said. "You cannot just deport these people, abandon them in no man's land in freezing temperatures and without suitable conditions, and say they are no longer our responsibility."

That point was brought home by the brother of one of the deported Palestinians, who called the way the expulsions were carried out "cruel and unjust."

Speaking on condition of anonymity, he related how the security forces "came to my

brother's home last week and took him away without explanation.

"It was a kidnapping," he said. "They wouldn't let him bring any warm clothes, and now my mother is sick to death with worry."

"My brother's only crime is that he goes to the mosque every Friday for prayers," the Palestinian maintained. "He's never been in prison. He runs a business and works from morning till night."

#### 'People Don't Understand Our Pain'

But the family of the slain border policeman believes Israel's harsh treatment of the deportees cannot compare to the cruelty visited on their loved one.

Interrupting their shiva to participate in a special High Court hearing on the expulsions Sunday, two of the Toledano brothers expressed scorn at attempts to have the deportations rescinded.

David Toledano, unshaven due to the 30-day period of mourning, said, "The whole world that condemns us doesn't think about the fact that they are killing people here, people who are not sitting in the rain crying and who will not be able to come back. Nobody thinks about that."

This sentiment was shared by Eli and Juliette Azulai, who, along with the Toledano family, took part in the hearing.

For the Azulaits, whose 18-year-old daughter Iris was stabbed to death two years ago, "expulsion is the only answer."

Sitting in their home in the Baka neighborhood of Jerusalem, Eli recalled Iris, the youngest of their eight children.

"She had just left the house to go to her army base when an Arab stabbed her. We heard her cry, 'Mama, Mama,' and we found her dead, lying in a pool of blood."

"If the government had adopted a policy of deportation before this incident, our daughter would still be alive," said Juliette, wiping tears from her eyes.

"I would like to see an even stiffer punishment," said Eli. "The government should kill 100 terrorist leaders in response to Toledano's death. We need to make a list of 100 terrorists who have committed crimes and who are sitting in jail enjoying themselves."

Prison, Juliette maintained, "is a school for terrorism. It's like summer camp. The murderers can watch TV, read the newspapers, have visits from family members."

"People speak of peace, of a Palestinian state, but in this tiny country there is no place for such a state between us and Jordan," said Eli.

"There is just one state, and that is the State of Israel. If the Arabs want to live here without knives and terror, they are welcome. If not, they have to go."

"We are a broken family," whispered Juliette, breaking down with emotion. "I still can't believe Iris is gone. I can't bear to move her clothes out of the closet. Even her toothbrush is in the place she left it."

"People don't understand our pain. All the world is against deportation, but the terrorists have ruined our lives. The world has to open its eyes and see what's happening."

The JTA Daily News Bulletin will not be published Friday, Dec. 25.

#### NEWS ANALYSIS: EXPULSIONS HAVE BROUGHT PLO A BIT CLOSER TO HAMAS RIVALS By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 21 (JTA) -- Israel's expulsion of 415 militant Palestinians from the administered territories has slowed down fundamentalist activity against Israel, at least temporarily.

But it also appears to have brought the Palestine Liberation Organization and the rival Hamas movement closer together.

Both groups received a measure of support when, in a rare move, Israeli Arab citizens called a one-day general strike this week in solidarity with Palestinians in the territories.

Growing backing for Moslem fundamentalists in the territories has also raised questions about a return to the peace talks for a Palestinian delegation that takes its cues from the Tunis-based PLO.

Palestinian leader Sari Nusseibeh said the clear message getting through to the leadership of the PLO is that most Palestinians no longer support peace negotiations with Israel.

A coming together of Hamas and the PLO surfaced this week in a leaflet signed by the two rival camps that calls for stepped-up action against the Israeli "occupation."

In their first joint manifesto since the outbreak of the intifada five years ago, they outlined coordinated activities.

Nevertheless, cracks have appeared in their move toward unity. Hamas failed to show up at an East Jerusalem rally this week called by Palestinian leaders to protest the deportations. And it was unclear whether the Moslem fundamentalist group would show up in Tunis for a scheduled meeting with the PLO leadership.

#### Activists In A State Of Shock

A Hamas spokesman in Amman, Ibrahim Ghosheh, said the group had accepted an invitation extended by PLO leader Yasir Arafat for a meeting in the Tunisian capital.

But PLO information head Yasir Abed Rabbo announced several hours later that the Moslem militants were not expected.

Hamas activists in the territories were reportedly in a state of shock following the deportation of their leaders late last week.

The fundamentalists fear additional mass deportations and have suspended terror attacks accordingly.

As the fundamentalist camp weighed its next steps, experts attributed its temporary slowdown not only to the expulsion of its leaders but to the fear that security forces were getting closer to capturing Hamas terrorist squads.

Moreover, sympathetic headlines in newspapers around the world made it less attractive to launch brutal terror attacks at this time. And continued demonstrations in support of the deportees has reduced the need for violent action.

Speakers at the Palestinian rally in East Jerusalem's Hakawati Theater said rage and public protest in the territories over the deportations was reminiscent of the early days of the intifada.

One speaker said public pressure made it difficult for the PLO to continue the peace process even if it wanted to do so. Ghazi Jib, a past member of the PLO-supported Unified National Command, said that difficulty would be reinforced unless Israel took back the deportees.

**ISRAEL ARRESTS TERRORISTS  
BENT ON ATTACKING SCHOOL**  
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 21 (JTA) -- Security authorities have arrested members of a terrorist squad of the Islamic Jihad who planned to stage a massive attack on a religious school in Jerusalem.

A last-minute hitch deterred implementation of a plan to kill elementary school children at the Itri yeshiva in southern Jerusalem, security authorities told a meeting of the Cabinet on Sunday.

The attack was planned for Oct. 6 -- the anniversary of the outbreak of the 1973 Yom Kippur War -- by the Islamic Jihad, a predecessor and rival of Hamas. Activists of both Moslem fundamentalist movements were among the 415 Palestinians expelled by Israel last week.

Planning of the operation was facilitated by a member of the terror group who had worked at the Talpiot neighborhood yeshiva and was familiar with its layout.

The terrorists planned to set out for the yeshiva from Bethlehem, in a car bearing Israeli license plates, and then open fire at the children there en masse. They were then to switch to a car bearing license plates for the administered territories, which they would use to return to Bethlehem.

The plan failed because an accomplice with a car bearing Israeli license plates was involved in a traffic accident that day and was unable to supply the vehicle.

Security forces have detained seven members of the terrorist squad, named Khaled Stambuli in honor of the man who murdered President Anwar Sadat of Egypt in 1981.

The same group is alleged to have plotted to assassinate Palestinian leader Faisal Husseini on a public occasion, in the presence of reporters and television cameras. The aim was to demonstrate rejection of the peace talks with Israel with which Husseini is identified.

The leader of the group was described as a 27-year-old barber from the Al-Aroub refugee camp near Hebron.

**RABIN NOW CONSIDERED LESS LIKELY  
TO ADD 2 PARTIES TO HIS COALITION**  
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 21 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has put off a planned meeting with the leader of the Tsomet party, and observers say it is now less likely he will bring the right-wing faction into his governing coalition.

Both Tsomet and the National Religious Party said they were interested in joining the Labor-led coalition following the government's decision last week to expel 415 Moslem fundamentalists from the administered territories.

But observers predict they will be rebuffed because the left-wing Meretz bloc, now the senior coalition partner, has threatened to quit at once should either Tsomet or the National Religious Party join.

Rabin, who has long courted Tsomet in an effort to broaden his parliamentary base, put off a scheduled meeting Monday with its leader, Rafael Eitan.

His move came after Tsomet and NRP said they sought assurances before entering into substantive coalition negotiations with Labor that Rabin was "not committed to Meretz's veto."

For all Rabin's desire to bring Tsomet in, he

would be unlikely to sacrifice his alliance with Meretz in order to achieve that end, political observers said.

Meretz, which is in deep crisis over the deportation decision, is determined to reassure its rank and file of its resoluteness by walking out the moment either Tsomet or NRP walk in. A large faction within Meretz has deplored the expulsions.

**OFFICERS CHARGED IN AIR FORCE DEATH**

TEL AVIV, Dec. 21 (JTA) -- Two Israeli air force officers have been charged with causing death by negligence in a helicopter crash at sea three months ago.

The charges were lodged in the Tel Aviv Military Court against a lieutenant and a reserve lieutenant colonel.

The indictment, lodged last Friday, charges the two with having flown too low when in command of an air force rescue helicopter while returning from an operational mission in Lebanon.

Their actions caused the helicopter to crash into the sea off Rosh Hanikra, on the Israeli-Lebanese border, leading to the death of an air rescue unit member, Staff Sgt. Gil Rosenthal.

Rosenthal was trapped within the fuselage when the craft overturned and sank. The other crew members managed to swim away.

**BODIES OF FLOOD VICTIMS FOUND**

TEL AVIV, Dec. 21 (JTA) -- Searchers have discovered the body of an immigrant from the former Soviet Union who drowned in flash floods last week north of Rehovot.

The remains of Max Kaplan, a 57-year-old mechanical engineer who immigrated here four years ago, were found over the weekend. His body was covered by deep silt and mud about 400 yards from where his badly damaged car had been pulled by crane from a flooded wadi within hours of his disappearance.

The body of another, similar victim of accidental drowning was discovered in the Jerusalem hills the same day of his death some miles from where he had drowned near the West Bank town of Ramallah.

**MORMON CHOIR HEADS FOR PROMISED LAND**

TEL AVIV, Dec. 21 (JTA) -- The world-famous Mormon Tabernacle Choir will pay its first-ever visit to Israel next week for a series of performances.

The tour was arranged by Gordon Hinckly, president of the Mormon Church Council, and other church officials when they visited Israel last April.

"We've been waiting for this for 145 years," said Hinckly.

The 325-member choir, founded in 1847, is based in Salt Lake City, Utah, the church's headquarters.

The choir's tour will add handily to Israeli tourism, as choristers will travel with spouses or other family members, bringing the number of visitors in the group to about 600.

During its 10-day stay, the choir will present five concerts: three a cappella, or without accompaniment, and two with the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra.

They will be part of the Liturgica '92 annual religious music festival.

## JUSTICE DEPARTMENT REVOKES CITIZENSHIP OF NAZI WHO FLED

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21 (JTA) -- A federal judge here has revoked the U.S. citizenship of a Florida man accused of concealing his wartime service as a Nazi guard at the Auschwitz concentration camp, where more than a million people were murdered.

U.S. District Judge Joyce Hens Green issued the denaturalization order against Anton Bless, 67, of Lecanto, Fla., after he failed to respond to a complaint filed by the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations.

According to OSI, Bless fled the country for Germany when he learned of the Nazi-hunting unit's intention of filing the complaint. His lawyer then informed the Justice Department that Bless would not defend himself against the charges.

OSI and the U.S. Attorney's Office filed the complaint in September. It accused Bless, an ethnic German from Yugoslavia, of concealing his wartime service in the SS Death's Head Battalion at Auschwitz when he entered the United States in 1956 and again when he applied for citizenship in 1964.

The complaint said Bless' service in the SS involved assisting the Nazis in persecuting people because of their race, religion, national origin or political opinion.

Neal Sher, director of OSI, said revocation of Bless' citizenship was the result of the department's ongoing efforts to identify and take legal action against participants in Nazi persecution who reside in the United States.

To date, 44 war crimes suspects have been stripped of their U.S. citizenship as a result of OSI's investigations and prosecutions, and 33 people have left or been removed from the United States.

## AUSTRALIA IS URGED TO BAR ENTRY OF HOLOCAUST-DENIER DAVID IRVING

By Jeremy Jones

SYDNEY, Australia, Dec. 21 (JTA) -- The Australian Jewish community and senators from the Australian Democrats party are urging the government to bar British Holocaust-denier David Irving entry to Australia.

The federal justice minister, Sen. Michael Tate, revealed last week that Irving applied for a visa to enter the country next March 17 and said the application will be considered in January.

Tate told the Senate that Irving applied in London and said the immigration minister will now consider whether he "is likely to become involved in activities disruptive to the Australian community or a group within the Australian community" or whether he is "of good character."

This consideration is affected by his deportation last month from Canada, where he snuck in despite an official ban and gave several lectures denying the Holocaust really happened.

He is also banned from Germany, which convicted him of spreading hate and Holocaust denial, and unwelcome in various other countries.

The Australian government pledged "that all relevant information will be taken into account" before a visa is issued. The Executive Council of Australian Jewry has argued that Irving's conviction in Germany, open arrest warrant from Austria, recent deportation from Canada and the likelihood that he will breach state anti-racist laws here are all relevant.

Council President Isi Leibler described Irving as "a beer hall rabble-rouser and hero to the German neo-Nazis."

Arguing that "freedom is threatened in this country, as it is in Germany by those such as Irving who incite the gullible to racist violence," Leibler urged the government to follow the example of Canada and deny Irving entry into Australia.

The Australian Democrats, a small political party which holds the balance of power in votes between the Labor Party government and the Liberal-National opposition in the Senate, asked the government to "prevent Mr. Irving from propounding his racial vilification and hatred in this country."

In a letter sent to federal politicians, Irving denied he has ever said "the Holocaust never occurred" or has been banned from entering Italy or Austria.

He claimed the campaign to keep him out of Australia is a result of "Jewish historians" who are "afraid" of debate.

A publishing house closely linked to Australian racists has announced that Irving will be coming to Australia to launch "a revised and lavishly illustrated" edition of "Hitler's War" and a biography of Herman Goering.

In 1986, Irving visited Australia to launch his book on the 1956 Hungarian revolution, "Uprising," which was published by Veritas, a small publishing firm associated with the Australia League of Rights.

Australia's Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission describes the league as "the most influential and effective, as well as the best-organized and most substantially financed racist organization in Australia."

"Uprising" contains gratuitous anti-Semitic comments, with the author interrupting the narrative to comment on individuals' Jewish origins. In it, he describes Hungarian dictator Matthias Rakosi as "the ugly Jewish dwarf that he was" who had "the tact of a kosher butcher."

Since the 1986 visit, four of Australia's states and territories have enacted anti-racist legislation, and the justice minister has confirmed that "they would no doubt enforce" the laws if they were transgressed.

## ISRAEL LAUNCHES TOLL-FREE SERVICE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 21 (JTA) -- Israel's state-owned Bezek telephone corporation has announced a new international phone service that will enable overseas callers to reverse charges on calls to Israel.

The service is similar to those already available in the United States and some European countries.

Under the first stage of the new "Israel Direct" service, callers in nine countries abroad can dial, without charge, Bezek's international operators in Israel and make a collect call to any phone here.

Bezek says the recipients will be charged a three-minute minimum at the maximum rate for international calls between the two countries.

The countries where the new service is available are Austria, Germany, Holland, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Sweden and the United States. In the United States, the service will be available through the AT&T and MCI long distance carriers.