

**HAMAS STRIKES AGAIN, MAKING GOOD ON VOW TO 'SAVE BULLETS FOR ISRAEL'**

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM, Nov. 27 (JTA) -- Raising the Israeli death toll yet again this week, Islamic terrorists opened fire on a passing car near the West Bank town of Hebron, killing a rabbi and wounding an Israeli policeman.

"It is another detestable murder," Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told reporters following the attack on Sunday.

The Islamic fundamentalist movement Hamas claimed responsibility for the attack, which came a day before Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization were due to hold talks in Brussels on implementing the next phase of the self-rule accord. It also came as Hamas continued to compete with Yasser Arafat and his Palestinian Authority for support among Palestinians.

At a rally in Gaza City on Saturday, an estimated 30,000 to 40,000 Islamic militants gathered to demonstrate against Israel and voice their anger at Arafat. The rally was seen as a response to a Gaza City rally on Nov. 21 at which some 10,000 demonstrators, many of them armed, had shown their support for Arafat.

Under an agreement worked out earlier between Hamas and Arafat's self-rule government, the Palestinian police agreed to avoid any confrontations with the demonstrators as long as the militants refrained from any open display of weapons.

The rally proceeded without violence, in contrast to the Nov. 18 confrontation in Gaza City between Hamas demonstrators and Palestinian police that resulted in the deaths of 14 Palestinians and the wounding of at least 200 others.

West Bank Rabbi Killed

In a clear promise to launch more terrorist attacks, militants at Saturday's rally said they did not bring their guns with them "because we are saving our bullets for the Israelis."

One day later, the bullets flew as gunmen opened fire on a white Subaru driving from Hebron to the settlement of Otniel in the Hebron Hills. Rabbi Ami Olami, 36, the father of five and the spiritual leader of Otniel, was killed.

His passenger, police officer Ehud Yitzhak, was wounded in the head. After he fired shots in the air to get help, a passing vehicle picked him up. He was later taken to Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem, where his wounds were described as moderate to light.

Jewish settler leaders blamed the government's peace policies for the attack and said it only strengthened their resolve to stay put.

Government ministers later quoted the Israel Defense Force chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Ehud Barak, as telling the Cabinet during its weekly meeting Sunday that he expected terrorist attacks to increase. Barak also reportedly said that he thought the attacks would become more sophisticated.

Also at the Cabinet meeting, Rabin denied media reports that he would consider a temporary

removal of IDF forces from West Bank population centers for three days in order to let the Palestinians hold elections immediately.

The Hebrew daily newspapers Ha'aretz, Yediot Achronot and Ma'ariv quoted senior government sources as saying that Rabin had told reporters accompanying him to the United States last week that he would be ready for the move if the Palestinian Authority pledged to permit the army to return after the three days.

Denying the reports on Sunday, Rabin said he would consult with the Israeli defense establishment before approving any redeployment of Israeli troops in the West Bank.

The question of elections and troop redeployment was on the agenda as Israel and the Palestinians prepared to resume talks on the next phase of self-rule this week.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Arafat were scheduled to discuss autonomy issues during a meeting of donor nations in Brussels. Peres and Arafat also were expected to try to encourage nations that had pledged millions of dollars in aid to the Palestinian Authority to make good on their promises.

Meanwhile, Palestinian violence spread to Lebanon last Friday, where fighters loyal to Arafat attacked Palestinian fundamentalists at Ein Hilweh, the country's largest refugee camp and home to at least 60,000 Palestinians.

Before the day was over, at least seven Palestinians were killed and dozens of others wounded in the fierce fighting in the camp.

The street battles ended with Arafat loyalists in control of the eastern sector of the camp and rival factions in charge of the western portions, according to local reports.

(JTA correspondent Hugh Orgel in Tel Aviv contributed to this report.)

COURT'S RULING AGAINST TERRORIST REVIVES DEBATE OVER DEATH PENALTY

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 27 (JTA) -- The decision by a military court to impose a death sentence against an Islamic militant terrorist has revived a debate over the death penalty here.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has voiced his opposition to the death sentence handed down last week against Said Badarneh, a West Bank resident who was convicted of playing a key role in the April 13 suicide bombing of a bus in the central Israeli town of Hadera.

Five Israelis were killed in that attack, as was the suicide bomber allegedly recruited by Badarneh. Another 30 people were wounded in the explosion, for which the Islamic fundamentalist group Hamas later claimed responsibility.

"Until now Israel has not executed a single Palestinian terrorist, and I think that was right. It would be a mistake to carry out a death sentence," Rabin said last Friday.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres also criticized the sentence, saying he was "proud that Israel isn't a nation of the gallows."

The Israeli human rights group B'Tselem

echoed that stance, but a number of right-wing legislators urged that the sentence be carried out.

"Death should be answered by death," said Rehavam Ze'evi of the nationalist Moledet Party.

The only person ever executed in Israel was Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann, who was hanged in 1962.

Another accused Nazi collaborator, John Demjanjuk, was sentenced to death in Israel in 1988.

But the Israeli Supreme Court vacated the decision last year, finding reasonable doubt that Demjanjuk was the man known as "Ivan the Terrible" of Treblinka. The decision cleared the way for Demjanjuk to return to the United States.

Israeli military courts have imposed the death sentences in only two other cases, but both decisions were later converted to multiple life sentences.

The three judges in the Badarneh case wrote that they chose the death sentence because life sentences do not deter Islamic terrorists bent on killing Israelis. They also said that the 24-year-old Badarneh showed no remorse for the killings.

Badarneh, a member of Hamas' Izz a-Din al-Kassam military wing, said Friday he was prepared to die and would not appeal the court's decision.

An appeal could be made on his behalf by either the judge advocate-general or by the commander in charge of the central sector, Maj. Gen. Ilan Biran, under whose jurisdiction the trial took place.

Biran could also overturn the decision himself and sentence Badarneh to six life terms, the sentence reportedly sought by the prosecutors in the case.

COURT RULES AGAINST TERRORISTS' KIN

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM, Nov. 27 (JTA) -- Continuing to weigh in on the debate over whether or not the families of terrorists should be penalized for their relatives' actions, the High Court of Justice has once again sided with the army.

In a ruling last week, the court said the army can seal the homes of three Hamas members who kidnapped and later killed Cpl. Nachshon Waxman in October.

In rejecting the appeals by the families of the terrorists, who had argued they were innocent of any crime, the court accepted the army's argument that a new deterrent was necessary to counter the growing trend of suicide attacks, in which dying is no longer a deterrent.

Earlier this month, the court ruled that the army could destroy the home of the Hamas terrorist who carried out the Oct. 19 bombing of a bus in Tel Aviv in which 23 people, including the terrorist, were killed. Following the ruling, the army demolished part of the home in the West Bank town of Kalkilya in which the suicide bomber had lived. The army spared sections of the house inhabited by other family members.

JORDAN, ISRAEL DECLARE OFFICIAL TIES

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM, Nov. 27 (JTA) -- In statements issued simultaneously in Jerusalem and Amman, Israel and Jordan have officially declared the

establishment of diplomatic relations between their two countries.

In the statements issued Sunday, the two sides spoke of mutual cooperation and expressed their hope for the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the region.

Israeli and Jordanian delegations were scheduled to visit each other's countries this week to choose final sites for their respective embassies, which are due to open Dec. 10.

Last week, Jordan appointed Dr. Marwan Muashar as ambassador to Israel. Muashar, who served as spokesman of the Jordanian delegation during earlier peace negotiations with Israel, has also headed Jordan's information office in Washington.

Israel was expected to name its ambassador to Jordan later this week.

ETHIOPIANS PROTEST ISRAELI POLICIES

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM, Nov. 27 (JTA) -- Several dozen Ethiopians staged a protest here this week against what they said were delays by Israeli authorities in bringing their relatives to Israel.

The protesters, who gathered outside the Foreign Ministry on Sunday, complained that the staff at the Israeli Embassy in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa has ignored the emigration requests of thousands of their people.

They said Israeli officials have created a negative image of members of their community, and that while the delays in processing the requests continue, many of their people are suffering from hunger and disease.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres met with representatives of the Ethiopian immigrants and later promised to look into their complaints.

Reacting to the protesters' charges, officials at the Absorption Ministry said that each file of a prospective immigrant is carefully reviewed under Israel's family reunification plan and that preference is given to those who are recognized under that plan.

In a statement, the Absorption Ministry added that some 1,400 Ethiopians have immigrated to Israel since August 1993.

HAIFA FAMILY CRUSHED BY TRUCK

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 27 (JTA) -- A Haifa woman, her mother and her two young children were crushed to death outside their house last week when a cement-mixer truck overturned and fell on them.

The dead were identified as Jimalah Dakwar, 32, her son Basel, 8, her daughter Ula, 4, and her mother, Leah.

Imad Dakwar, the children's father, was standing on the roof of his house, to which an extension was being added, when the accident occurred.

He watched, horror-stricken but helpless, as a truck with a full load of cement skidded on a steep slope of Mount Carmel and toppled over onto his family.

Dakwar, an Arab lawyer from Haifa, had recently visited Jordan, during which he presented an invitation to the mayor of Amman from Haifa Mayor Amram Mitzna, to visit Haifa.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:
COMPARING NOTES ON TROUBLED YOUTH,
U.S. OFFICIAL PRAISES ISRAELI VILLAGE**
By Cynthia Mann

YEMIN ORDE, Nov. 27 (JTA) -- Seeking ideas and guidance on how to deal with troubled youth in America, U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala spent Thanksgiving at this Israeli youth village near Haifa.

Shalala said her visit to the Yemin Orde Youth Village in the Carmel was in recognition of the success and effectiveness of the village, which is part of the Jewish Agency's youth aliyah system of boarding schools for immigrants and poor and troubled Israelis.

The village is home to 500 youth from Ethiopia, the former Soviet Union and 15 other countries.

"The model is very famous," said Shalala, during her two-hour stop here, where she ate Thanksgiving turkey and cranberry sauce prepared especially in her honor.

The village is "a stop for everyone in the States interested" in children, education and the family, she said.

Shalala's visit follows a trip to the United States earlier this year by some of Yemin Orde's Ethiopian residents. It also follows testimony in Washington by the village's director, Haim Peri, before a House of Representatives subcommittee on education.

Peri welcomed Shalala to the village with a summary of Yemin Orde's guiding philosophies. "Our kids have one thing in common," he said, "too many separations and too many disappointments."

But "this is not another temporary experience," Peri said. The children know "this is a haven for the rest of their lives.

Come And Go Until They Marry

"They come and go until they are under the wedding canopy," the same as children do with their biological parents, he said.

Shalala later said this "continuity" was what struck her most about the village.

The idea of "sink or swim" is not good practice, even for world-class swimmers," she said. "What's important is putting our arms around young people and holding on, whether or not it is in an institutional setting."

Peri told Shalala that the village's other principal commitment is to nurture the cultural background of each student.

This, he said, was learned from the "lessons of atrocities" in decades past, where the emphasis on a "melting pot" in Israel led to a costly denial of richly diverse immigrant heritages.

"We go a long way to learn about the past culture of every child," said Peri, adding that it is impossible to build a future without an anchor in the past.

While there is no official U.S. plan to adopt the Yemin Orde model, its "insight and genius" can serve as the basis for an adaptation of programs for troubled youth in the United States, according to Peter Edelman, a counselor to Shalala who accompanied her to Israel.

"It is a wonderful program," but "it is not easily replicated," he said of Yemin Orde.

For one thing, he said, "there is a unique-

ness of leadership here," he said. Secondly, "you can't take the kinds of problems we have in the United States and use residential solutions on a large scale" because of the enormous resources and expertise required.

"Taking kids out of their environment, away from their families, is very difficult to do well and, as history demonstrates, all too easy to do badly," said Edelman.

"Our experiences with orphanages was terrible and we transitioned out of that," added Shalala.

She also said that the boarding schools for Native Americans that were run until very recently "didn't do well," especially when it came to maintaining links to the youths' culture.

Although Yemin Orde may not be adopted as a model on the federal level, the village is finding adherents in local U.S. communities.

Peri said he is serving as an adviser to a private foundation in Philadelphia that plans to build a youth village based on the model of Yemin Orde.

He also said the municipality of Detroit has informed him that it plans to adopt the model in its development of residential youth programs.

Meanwhile, Igor Schneider, 18, an immigrant from Latvia who lives at Yemin Orde, shared his own view of the village with Shalala.

"This place is my home," said Schneider, who came to Israel in 1992 and has since converted to Judaism because his mother is not Jewish. His father followed five months ago, settling in a small community outside of Tel Aviv.

While in Israel, Shalala also met with senior staff of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and the Brookdale Institute to talk about children and youth at risk, health care reform, and health education programs co-sponsored by the JDC for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza.

Shalala, who is of Lebanese descent, also visited Gaza, where she reportedly told Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat that the Americans would support his urgent call for funding by the international community of his self-rule administration.

She also received an honorary degree from the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa.

LABOR SET TO CUT FUNDS TO DAVAR

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 27 (JTA) -- Davar, an Israeli daily newspaper linked to the Labor Party, may cease publication by the beginning of next year, according to Haim Ramon, chairman of the Histadrut trade union federation.

Ramon informed the newspaper's employees that as of Jan. 1, Histadrut would cut off all funding to the paper, which has a daily circulation of about 20,000.

But he said he was prepared to continue negotiations with a committee representing the paper's employees, who may purchase the newspaper in a bid to keep the presses running.

Ramon said Histadrut would be prepared to give Davar an approximate \$11 million "farewell grant" if the workers' committee could find a way to guarantee the continued employment of most of the newspaper's employees.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES:
**SEEKING THEIR PLACE IN BUSINESS,
ISRAELI WOMEN 'COME OUT OF CLOSET'**

By Michele Chabin

JERUSALEM, Nov. 27 (JTA) -- A longtime social worker, Judy Amiran says she "woke up one day and decided to change careers. After 15 years in the profession, I had only debts to show for it."

After exploring her options, Amiran, a veteran immigrant from the United States, opened a small business, acting as a liaison between printers and clients needing stationery and mailing labels.

Just a few months into her new endeavor, Amiran admits to feeling overwhelmed by the responsibility of running her own business.

"I'm all alone. I don't even have an accountant," she says. "I've been running the business all on intuition. I realize I need to come out of the closet, to act like a professional and to get some proper advice."

Judging from the turnout at this month's first annual Jerusalem Businesswomen's Conference, Amiran is not alone.

Attended by 320 women -- due to lack of space, dozens more were turned away at the door -- the half-day conference provided unprecedented networking opportunities for Israeli businesswomen. The conference also featured workshops on such topics as financing and marketing a small business, assertiveness training, how to juggle a business and family, and sexual harassment in the workplace.

According to Uri Scharf, director of the Jerusalem Business Development Center, "About 50 percent of Jerusalemites are women, yet only one out of five of those who come to us for business assistance are women."

The business center provides advice and mentors for those wishing to start or expand a small business.

Asked why so few of the applicants are women, Scharf said, "Many women are afraid to take on the responsibility of running a business. We need to help women overcome these fears."

Trying To Stay Afloat

While several of the conference participants were highly successful businesswomen, raking in millions of dollars in profits each year, most said they were either planning to start a venture or to expand an existing one.

Given the country's 15 percent rate of inflation, many said they were simply trying to stay afloat and avoid the tax authorities.

Though women's business conferences are old hat in most Western countries, the Jerusalem event was the first of its kind in Israel.

Organized by Elana Rozenman, a recent immigrant from Canada, and co-sponsored by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, the Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel and others, the conference set out to fill a void.

Rozenman, who runs monthly business seminars for women, believes that businesswomen have been ignored by much of Israel's business sector.

"There's a need for women here to learn how to progress in business," Rozenman says, "but there's almost no one serving them."

Panelists and participants alike swapped

horror stories about the obstacles they face every time they want to finalize a contract or collect what is owed them.

One said, "I simply don't receive the same level of respect as my male counterparts. When I approached a bank for a small business loan, the manager insisted I bring in my husband."

The image of Israel as a male-dominated society also found its way into the workshops. Through a role-playing exercise during the assertiveness-training session, a struggling businesswoman named Lee re-enacted a scene between herself and the man she described as her "condescending six-foot-three Israeli" distributor.

Standing before about 50 women, her shoulders drooping, Lee said, "He owes me a lot of money and he flatly refused to pay it. I've already sent him two lawyer's letters. What should I do now?"

The onlookers offered several suggestions, from changing her body language in order to appear more forceful to hiring another lawyer.

Observing the group dynamics, Rozenman said, "This is what this conference is all about -- women sharing their expertise with others, women empowering others to achieve their goals."

For Judy Amiran, the event was invaluable.

"It pushed me to find an accountant, to take myself seriously," she said. "All I needed was some inspiration."

**KOSHER OR NON-KOSHER? SHAS FURY
REVIVES DEBATE OVER MEAT IMPORTS**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 27 (JTA) -- Controversy over the import of non-kosher meat is continuing to plague Israeli politics as Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin seeks to woo the Shas Party back into his coalition government.

Rabin last week instructed his Labor Party to back a demand by the fervently Orthodox Shas Party for new legislation banning the import of non-kosher meat.

Saying his party is committed to preserving the status quo on matters of religion, Rabin said that a government decision to allow the import of non-kosher meat would violate the status quo.

Rabin's intervention followed an announcement by Commerce Minister Michael Harish that Israel will start allowing non-kosher meat imports as part of the privatization of Israel's meat industry. Harish's announcement came in the wake of a Supreme Court decision that rejected any ban.

Until recently, the import of meat was essentially a government monopoly. The question of non-kosher imports arose following the liberalization of the meat industry. Non-kosher meat produced in Israel is already available and reportedly would continue to be available despite any new law.

Harish's announcement triggered an angry response from Shas, which has demanded the enactment of legislation to ban the import of non-kosher meat. Shas officials declared they would definitely not re-enter the governing coalition without the new legislation.

Rabin wants Shas to rejoin his government to insure wide backing for his peace initiatives. Shas, an original partner in Rabin's 1992 coalition government, dropped out a year later.