



NEWS AT A GLANCE

■ **Two Israeli men were shot and killed at Wadi Kelt, a popular hiking spot located between Jerusalem and Jericho. Government sources said the killers were intent on disrupting the peace process. [Page 2]**

■ **A new draft version of the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act that would enable continued U.S. financial aid to the Palestinians would not require the Palestine Liberation Organization to amend its covenant until Palestinian elections are held. The legislation, which is being circulated by Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), would extend the waivers necessary for aid for 18 months.**

■ **Argentine Jews paid tribute to the victims of last year's terrorist attack in Buenos Aires. A crowd of mourners gathered at the devastated site where the Jewish communal headquarters once stood. In New York, the Anti-Defamation League sponsored a memorial and tree-planting ceremony for the victims. [Page 1]**

■ **Argentina denied Israeli news reports that Argentina is trying to sell a nuclear reactor to Syria. In a letter sent to Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella, the Simon Wiesenthal Center expressed concern over the possible sale.**

■ **The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee launched new efforts to supply emergency food, medication and clothing to refugees who fled Srebrenica in the latest attacks in Bosnia. [Page 4]**

■ **Jewish leaders called on President Clinton and Congress to end the arms embargo on Bosnia. The American Jewish Congress and the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council condemned the fall of the U.N. safe haven Srebrenica. [Page 4]**

■ **Jewish groups went on the alert as the House Appropriations Committee was set to consider cutting off all federal funding to public schools that deny constitutionally protected religious expression in schools. The vote on what has become an annual amendment is scheduled for the end of the week.**

Calls for justice escalate at tributes to Argentine victims

By Avi V. Stieglitz

NEW YORK, July 18 (JTA) — Despite the good intentions of some officials and the offer of international cooperation in the investigation, those responsible for the terrorist attack on the Buenos Aires Jewish headquarters one year ago may never be brought to justice, according to a new report.

The report was commissioned by the American Jewish Committee and released this week.

It paints a bleak picture of the Argentine government's investigation into the terrorist bombing that killed 86 people and left more than 300 others wounded.

The report's author, Argentine journalist Sergio Kiernan, cites lack of will, incompetence and anti-Semitism on the part of Argentine police as factors preventing the apprehension of the culprits.

"It is a real hard case to solve, but the investigators should have the capacity to at least find the local supporters of the bombers," Kiernan said at a news conference here to mark the first anniversary of the attack.

The release of the report was one of several events worldwide to mark the one-year anniversary of the July 18, 1994, bombing.

The building destroyed by the bomb housed the DAIA, the umbrella political organization of Argentine Jewry; the AMIA, the community's 100-year-old main social service agency for the poor and elderly; a library of YIVO, the Jewish Research Institute, where the archives on Jewish life in Argentina were stored; and the Jewish Community Council, among other organizations.

In Argentina, remembrance events were held across the country throughout the week.

On Monday, Argentine President Carlos Menem, speaking on radio and television, promised to locate and persecute those "international terrorists" responsible for the blast.

A day earlier, however, the mechanic who had rented the van allegedly used in the blast said on national television that the blast was "a local attack without anyone from abroad."

'No to silence. No to forgetting'

At a memorial ceremony at the Jewish cemetery of Tablada the previous day, Ruben Beraja, the president of DAIA, demanded action.

"The perpetrators," he said, "are not here nor in any cemetery or any prison."

"When we asked for justice," he added, "we asked for an intense, serious and constant activity to achieve truth. We are not pleading for a Jewish cause."

"It is a universal cause, because justice is a value intrinsic to all free countries," he said.

At the memorial ceremony, relatives and friends of the victims and leaders of the Jewish community unveiled a monument and a plaque.

The names of the 86 dead, engraved in bronze on the monument, were covered by roses.

On Tuesday, at 9:50 a.m. — the exact time when the bomb went off a year ago, demolishing the building at 633 Pasteur St. — another commemoration for the victims was held in Buenos Aires.

A crowd of mourners gathered at the devastated site where the Jewish communal headquarters once stood, and from a rose-strewn altar, the names of the dead were read aloud and a candle lit for each one.

Security was tight — as it has been at all Jewish sites here since the bombing took place.

The block was closed off from the corners of the adjoining streets, and police and security officers checked the pockets and briefcases of those attending the ceremony.

The crowd was silent and meditative, a sharp contrast to the bustle of the neighboring streets and the buzz of helicopters overhead.

Many of the participants wore a badge on their lapel that read: "Because We Do Not Forget, We Demand Justice. Justice and Remembrance. July 18, 1994."

Posters were placed around the altar, some of which bore pictures of the victims.

Others displayed slogans.

"No to Silence. No to Forgetting," read one poster.

A woman spoke of the pain, impotence and anguish of the victims' families. "We want a real engagement on the part of the government. Neither Jews nor Argentines died here, human beings did," she said.

One poster in English attracted particular attention.

It read: "President Menem: Oklahoma City Bombing 1995; suspects captured. AMIA Bomb Attack 1994 — No Suspects?"

The demand for justice dominated many of the ceremonies commemorating the victims, including one in New York, where the Anti-Defamation League sponsored a memorial service and tree-planting ceremony to pay tribute to the victims.

Jewish officials attending the ADL ceremony expressed outrage that Argentina sent a low-level diplomat, Juan Louis Garibaldi, deputy consul general of Argentina, to the event.

He spoke only briefly, saying that he had nothing official to add about the investigation.

One year after the bomb was detonated, the Argentine government's investigation has yielded only four arrests and no conclusive explanation of the bombing.

The Menem government has so far failed to get beyond accusing secondhand car dealer Carlos Alberto Telleldin of providing the van used as a car bomb, and arresting three others as alleged accomplices.

Three of these arrests took place only recently.

Anti-Semitism may have hindered investigation

The AJCommittee report charges that investigators were slow in sealing off the area to prevent the contamination of evidence, used poor recordkeeping methods and turned away potential witnesses because of computer difficulties.

The report also explores the possible anti-Semitism of those authorities involved with the investigation.

"It was not solved quickly because of anti-Semitism in the middle and lower ranks of the police and intelligence communities," he said.

A majority of the officials involved in the investigation loyally served the dictatorship that ruled Argentina from 1968 to 1983.

That dictatorship was responsible for killing thousands of Argentine citizens and made no secret of its anti-Semitic views.

Although Kiernan stopped short of charging an official cover-up in the investigation, he said he believes that finding the bombers is not something the investigators are enthusiastic about.

The attack was the second in less than three years against a Jewish target in Argentina.

In a similar style attack, 28 people were killed when the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires was bombed in 1992.

That case also resulted in no arrests, and, according to Kiernan, is currently "gathering dust in some drawer in the Supreme Court in Argentina."

At the news conference in New York on Monday, David Harris, executive director of the AJCommittee, declared that "if the perpetrators of this heinous act think they can attack a Jewish target with impunity, they are wrong."

"We stand in solidarity with our fellow Jews in Argentina," he said. □

(JTA correspondent Cristina Asch in Buenos Aires contributed to this report.)

Two Israelis killed at Wadi Kelt in attack timed to upset negotiations

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 18 (JTA) — Two young Israelis were shot and killed Tuesday at Wadi Kelt, a popular hiking spot that is located between Jerusalem and Jericho.

Oren Shahor of Ra'anana and Ohad Bachrach of Beit El, both in their 20s, were hiking in the area and had stopped to eat.

They were apparently fired upon from some distance; one was subsequently attacked with a knife as well.

The two victims had been known to be carrying side arms at the time — but these were gone by the time their bodies were found.

Wadi Kelt is one of the most impressive spots in the Judean Desert. It is about a 20-minute drive from Jerusalem.

For years, Wadi Kelt has been a popular hiking area, particularly for Jerusalemites, but also for other visitors from throughout the country.

Maj. Ilan Biran, the commander of the central region, which includes the West Bank, said the killers were probably members of the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement or another militant group opposed to the peace process.

Government sources said the killers were clearly intent on disrupting the peace process at this delicate time — when large Israeli and Palestinian negotiating teams are meeting virtually around the clock in an effort to conclude an agreement for implementing the second phase of Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank before a July 25 deadline.

The crime resembled a double killing by terrorists in the same place in October 1993, soon after the Declaration of Principles signing in Washington.

The opposition Likud Party, in a statement, called on the government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to postpone further negotiations with the Palestinians because of the killings. □

Two officers presumed lost after F-16 crashes into another

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 18 (JTA) — Two Israel Air Force officers were missing and presumed lost after their F-16 warplane collided with another F-16 just off the coast of Nahariya early Tuesday morning.

Lt. Col. Rami Shlomi, 36, a squadron leader from Mishmar Ha'emek, and Lt. Yuval Binyamin, 24, failed to eject from their plane after the collision.

The crew of the second jet fighter bailed out safely into the sea and were picked up by a navy rescue craft.

The commander of the IAF, Maj. Gen. Herzl Bodinger, set up a commission of inquiry to investigate the incident.

He told reporters that the cause of the accident clearly seemed to be human error on the part of one of the pilots.

The two planes were not engaged in any difficult maneuvers when the collision occurred, Bodinger said.

The accident came just hours after eight soldiers were hurt in an explosion during a training exercise in the Negev near Yeroham.

The Israel Defense Force chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Amnon Shahak, ordered a cessation of ground training exercises throughout the army until safety regulations were revised. □

Proposed USDA regulations may make kosher meat scarce

By Jennifer Batog

WASHINGTON, July 18 (JTA) — Kosher Jews across the country may find it nearly impossible to locate properly prepared meat and poultry if proposed U.S. Department of Agriculture regulations are implemented.

The regulations, designed to reduce disease-causing bacteria in meat and poultry, would affect the salting and rinsing processes, or m'lichah and haddachah, according to rabbinic experts.

The new rules would not affect the ritual slaughter, or shechitah, involved in kashrut.

The proposals' impact on the kosher world "could go anywhere from ending certification to making the meat and poultry scarce and higher priced," said Abba Cohen, director and general counsel of the Washington office of Agudath Israel of America, an Orthodox organization.

"If these regulations make it too difficult for the packing plants to comply with, they just may close up," said Avrom Pollak, president of Star K Kosher Certification.

Star K, which is based in Baltimore, is an international non-profit organization that certifies food as kosher.

The proposed directives, introduced in February, call for washing all meat and poultry in an anti-microbial solution and storing the food below 40 degrees Fahrenheit through the handling, holding and shipping process.

Recent outbreaks of food-borne illnesses prompted the new proposals, according to Jacque Knight, a USDA spokeswoman.

Depending on how the anti-microbial treatments are applied, the wash could "compromise" the ritual salting and rinsing, Cohen said, adding that this is especially true if the solution must be applied before the process can begin. "There's no halachic solution for that. It would make it impossible to certify kosher meat and poultry," he added.

No post-slaughter ritual exemption for meat

The temperature provisions could affect the salting and rinsing timetable, putting pressure on those who produce kosher meat and poultry, Cohen said. According to Jewish law, the rinsing and salting must be performed within 72 hours after the slaughter, he said.

The time required to bring the meat and poultry to that temperature, combined with concerns such as shipping and delivery schedules and slaughters on Fridays or before religious holidays, could pose problems, Cohen said.

Although there is a broad religious exemption in the 1957 Poultry Products Inspection Act, applying to both slaughter and post-slaughter, there is a slaughter, but no post-slaughter religious exemption in a comparable meat act. But because the poultry exemption is granted at the discretion of the USDA secretary, it may not be applicable in this case, Cohen said.

In any case, the regulations are not final.

The USDA is reviewing a letter from Agudah, along with 6,000 other comments on the proposals from the community at large, as part of the approval process, Knight said. The department will also hold a forum on the proposals here in September so that people can raise their concerns, she said.

The new regulations are expected to be approved by the beginning of next year, Knight said.

They will be phased in over a three-year period, and would affect about 6,200 federally inspected U.S. meat and poultry plants. The regulations would also apply to foreign countries that export their products to America.

Cohen said Agudah would like an exemption, but would be satisfied with some sort of accommodation.

"What we're looking for is not necessarily an exemption, but some kind of accommodation so as to accommodate our concerns, even if the USDA finds some other way it can ensure the health and safety of the meat and poultry," he said.

According to Agudah and Star K, the salting process itself cuts down on the presence of bacteria in meat and poultry.

Although USDA scientists have not reviewed that possibility, the department is "open to any proposal they can show us that will meet the safety performance standards," Knight said.

Cohen and Knight appeared optimistic that a compromise could be reached.

"We think the rule is flexible enough that we will be able to meet the goal of food safety and performance standards" without intruding on religious practices, Knight said.

"We have every reason to think they're going to be sensitive to our concerns," Cohen said. "They understand the kosher meat and poultry industry has its own procedures and requirements and that accommodation is sometimes appropriate." □

Riskin, on U.S. visit, defends civil disobedience by settlers

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, July 18 (JTA) — "Roads may be blocked and if people stop working, they stop working," said Rabbi Shlomo Riskin, outlining the acts of passive resistance he anticipates as West Bank settlers try to thwart the Israeli government's plan to turn more land over to the Palestinians.

"This was not on the platform for election and is against the will of the majority in every poll taken," said the rabbi at a news conference here last week. "There is a headlong rush into fundamental changes that could create far-reaching conditions."

Riskin, spiritual leader of the West Bank settlement of Efrat, arrived here last Friday to begin a brief U.S. fund-raising and speaking tour at synagogues and Jewish federations. At the news conference, held at a midtown Manhattan hotel, he defended the settlers' right to work against the Israeli government.

Riskin, who until recently was known for having relatively moderate views about an Israeli-Palestinian accord, has lately been sounding a more aggressive tone.

He has been in the forefront of those who encourage Israelis to do whatever they must, short of violence, to stop their government from handing over West Bank settlements to a Palestinian entity.

"This is the time for passive resistance," he said. "There are certain moments in time when acts of zealotry become necessary, especially when leadership chooses to become silent."

"We have to do what we have to do in Israel," he said. "My red line is to never raise a hand against the Israel Defense Force, but I will never leave [Efrat] on my two feet," he said.

Despite his plea for peaceful resistance, violent clashes between Efrat residents and the Israeli army broke out two days before Riskin arrived in New York, when the settlers attempted to expand their settlement.

The army arrested 42 settlers. Riskin, who in 1965 marched in Alabama for civil rights with Martin Luther King, Jr., was not among those arrested.

"I tried to get arrested, but they wouldn't arrest me," Riskin said at the news conference here. □

Jewish groups renew call to lift Bosnia arms embargo*By Jennifer Batog*

WASHINGTON, July 18 (JTA) — In one of the first Jewish outcries against the escalating war in Bosnia-Herzegovina in months, leaders in the organized Jewish community have called on President Clinton and Congress to end the arms embargo on Bosnia.

The renewed appeals come in the wake of the rebel Bosnian Serb capture of Srebrenica, a U.N. "safe haven," last week.

In separate statements, the American Jewish Congress and the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council condemned Srebrenica's fall and the West's ineffectiveness.

"It is time for our leaders to recognize the clear failure of present policies, and at long last allow the Bosnian government to defend its citizens from further aggression and put a stop to the genocide," wrote AJCongress President David Kahn and Executive Director Phil Baum in a letter to Clinton.

The Jewish officials disagreed with those who say lifting the embargo would force the United Nations to leave Bosnia and result in the loss of "safe areas" to Serbian forces.

"Unfortunately, however, these safe areas have tragically proved not to be safe," the two officials wrote in the letter.

In a NJCRAC statement, Lynn Lyss, the umbrella group's chair, said the organization was "outraged" at the Bosnia situation's deterioration and the July 11 assault on Srebrenica.

"We deplore the United States' failure to provide effective international leadership while millions of people have been forced to flee their homes and hundreds of thousands have been killed because of their ethnicity or religion," she said.

Lyss criticized U.N. forces, saying recent events show that they cannot or "will not fulfill their obligations to defend the safe areas."

The presence of the U.N. forces also prevents NATO from using air strikes to protect the safe spots, Lyss added.

Action under way on Capitol Hill

Since Srebrenica fell, the Jewish community, which had been active on the Bosnian issue early in the three-year war, has begun to raise its voice again.

On Sunday, five days after the attack, dozens of demonstrators, including Jews and Muslims, were arrested outside the White House.

They were protesting the Clinton administration's policy on Bosnia.

On Capitol Hill as well, action is under way.

Sens. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) and Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.), Congress' only Orthodox Jew, have co-sponsored legislation that would terminate the arms embargo that the United Nations imposed on the nation in 1991.

The bill would lift the ban either after the U.N. peacekeeping forces withdraw or 12 weeks after the Bosnian government requests such action.

The Senate was expected to vote on the measure this week.

Bosnian leaders have repeatedly asked for the embargo to be lifted.

In a speech here July 17, Bosnian Foreign Minister Muhamed Sacirbey noted the "friendship and commitment" of the Jewish people.

He also said he would direct the Bosnian govern-

ment to extend friendship to Jewish communities around the world, including Israel.

The move will "continue the cooperation between our people and the Jewish people," Sacirbey said. □

Effort under way to aid refugees from Srebrenica*By Alissa Kaplan*

NEW YORK, July 18 (JTA) — Efforts are under way to supply tens of thousands of refugees in Bosnia with an emergency shipment of food, medication and clothing, said Gideon Taylor, assistant executive vice president at the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

The latest flood of refugees — mostly Bosnian Muslims — is the result of the Serbian takeover of the U.N.-declared "safe zone" of Srebrenica last week.

Bosnian Serbs, defying international censure, invaded and drove out thousands of women, children and elderly people who had taken refuge there.

"When you get 30,000 people suddenly arriving, it's a pretty grim situation," Taylor said.

The JDC and La Benevolencija, the humanitarian aid society of the Sarajevo Jewish community, are moving tons of supplies from a warehouse in Split, Croatia, to the Bosnian safe haven of Tuzla, where many of the approximately 30,000 refugees are located, Taylor said.

The Tuzla Jewish community of 111 people is involved with the logistics of the shipment, Taylor also said.

Since the war started three years ago, JDC and La Benevolencija have evacuated more than 2,000 people, both Jews and non-Jews, to safety.

As a group, the Jews in Bosnia have not taken sides in the war, which allows them to carry out their humanitarian missions. □

Ex-Czech official tells media: Gestapo leader given to KGB*By Gil Sedan*

BONN, July 18 (JTA) — Was Adolf Eichmann's immediate superior abducted from Argentina four years before Eichmann?

According to this week's issue of the German news magazine Focus, a former interior minister of Czechoslovakia told the magazine that his country's secret agents kidnapped Heinrich Muller in 1956 from Argentina and handed him over to the Russian KGB.

Known as "Gestapo Muller" to distinguish him from other Heinrich Mullers in the Nazi hierarchy, Muller was the chief of the Gestapo and Eichmann's boss.

In his capacity as Gestapo head, Muller was directly responsible for the transport of millions of Jews to the concentration camps.

Muller was last seen leaving Adolf Hitler's Berlin bunker the day before Hitler committed suicide. He was believed to have been killed in the bombings of Berlin at the end of the war.

But former Czechoslovak Interior Minister Rudolf Barak, 82, told Focus that Ivan Serov, who in 1956 was head of the KGB, had assigned him to find Muller.

Barak told the magazine that Czechoslovak agents subsequently identified Muller in Cordoba, in northwestern Argentina, from where he was apprehended, flown to Prague and delivered over to the KGB.

Barak said he was convinced that the KGB wanted Muller as an informant, because he had valuable information about the entire Nazi leadership.

There was no information in the Focus report about whether Muller was still alive. □