



## NEWS AT A GLANCE

■ The Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement issued a warning to President Clinton that there would be "a wave of anger and retaliation" in the Islamic world if the United States extradites senior Hamas official Musa Muhammad Abu Marzook to Israel. The warning came as Israel initiated extradition proceedings against Marzook, who was arrested at New York's Kennedy Airport last week.

■ Georgia's moment of silence law was declared constitutional by a U.S. District Court. The ruling came almost one year after a suburban Atlanta teacher walked off the job to protest a 60-second period of "quiet reflection." Brian Bown, the teacher, has vowed to launch an appeal.

■ Several Jewish lawmakers were targeted by anti-Semitic hate mail and faxes. Among the transmissions was a swastika-emblazoned fax calling for a "purification of our society." The assault came as Democratic members of Congress are stepping up attacks against extremist groups. [Page 2]

■ A move to cut funding for Israel's Arrow missile program failed in the House of Representatives. However, lawmakers recommended that next year's monies for the jointly funded U.S.-Israel program be taken out of Israel's \$1.8 billion in annual military assistance from the United States.

■ Israeli police raided a right-wing pirate radio station, seizing equipment and bringing its manager in for questioning. The raid prompted a storm of protest in the Knesset, where opposition members charged that the government was trying to silence voices of the opposition. [Page 2]

■ A report by the Israel Association for Ethiopian Jews charged that Israeli education policies are "steadily transforming Ethiopian immigrants into a black underclass." The report further charged that Israel's education system has contributed to poverty, unemployment and juvenile delinquency among Ethiopian immigrants. [Page 4]

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES

### Congress, Jewish groups assess avenues to contain the militias

By Jennifer Batog

WASHINGTON (JTA) — When members of the Aryan Nations gathered for its annual conference last month, they heard hate-filled speeches blasting Jews and the federal government and advocating the establishment of a whites-only nation.

According to the Anti-Defamation League, leadership struggles within the organization may cloud the group's future, but the danger is still there.

"The roots of the militia movement" comes from such groups as the Aryan Nations, said Abraham Foxman, national director of the ADL. "They ideologically feed and fuel those who are armed and dangerous."

Concerned about the growing militia movement in the United States, some lawmakers and Jewish groups have begun a quest to contain the country's paramilitary organizations.

Although monitored by Jewish groups for years, the militia movement gained national attention in the wake of the Oklahoma City bombing in April, when it became known that suspects in the worst terrorist attack in American history had ties to the militias.

Since the bombing, the law enforcement community, legislators and the Clinton administration have been struggling to find a way to deal with the fiercely anti-government organizations.

Many of these militias borrow from anti-Semitic conspiracy theories to form their anti-government ideologies. Some of their leaders view Jews as the evil force behind the government they oppose, according to those who study the movement.

### Call to throw monkey wrenches into the system

One such theory detailed in some of the militias' literature involves "international bankers" who are masterminding an international plot to take over America. "International bankers" is a code phrase often used in anti-Semitic circles to describe Jews.

At last week's Aryan Nations conference, Louis Beam, a relative newcomer to the organization who reportedly is positioning himself to rise to a leadership position in the group, called the federal government the main enemy of the people.

Describing the system as an "apparatus of oppression" that is a "well-oiled machine," Beam said monkey wrenches need to be thrown into it, according to the ADL.

In addition, he advocated what he called "political guerilla warfare," involving voters in "white racial enclaves."

In Congress, efforts to deal with the militias have been embroiled in partisan politics. Despite demands from Democrats, Republican leaders had, until recently, balked at holding hearings on the militia movement.

In early July, Rep. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) took matters into his own hands and convened an unofficial forum, hearing testimony from Jewish groups and federal agents victimized by militia members.

House Republicans were invited to the hearing, but none attended.

Now, Rep. Bill McCollum (R-Fla.), chairman of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, has indicated that he will hold hearings on militia groups in the fall.

Most in the Jewish community agree that official congressional hearings are a good place to start, and they are offering their input over what the eventual outcome of such probes should be.

Some groups advocate a federal law banning militias, while others say a better approach would be to bolster law enforcement power.

Still others would approve measures that would extend federal jurisdiction to paramilitary training statutes already on the books.

The American Jewish Committee began calling for a federal law banning such organizations in 1986, when it drafted model legislation prohibiting private-run militias, said AJCommittee's legislative director Richard Foltin.

The organization is currently in the process of re-examining its original draft to "see if it still works," Foltin said. "The notion is that if

you're going to have regular, organized forces, it should be the states maintaining these forces, not private individuals."

AJCommittee's legislation specifically bans paramilitary organizations, and suggests a punishment of fines up to \$10,000, five years in prison, or both for forming militias or conducting weapons training sessions outside government-sanctioned activities such as military science courses.

The Anti-Defamation League, while not opposed to banning militias, has chosen a different, broader route that would outlaw militia activity, ADL officials say.

About 24 states have laws modeled after legislation drafted by the ADL in the 1980s, when hate groups became involved in survivalist training and teaching techniques of violence, according to Michael Lieberman, ADL's Washington counsel.

The legislation outlaws both teaching firearm and explosives use with the intent to harm others as well as participating in such sessions.

Now that the militia situation has moved to the forefront, the ADL is advocating extending federal jurisdiction in that area, said Lieberman.

"It seems to us it would be valuable to increase federal jurisdiction," he said.

"It's clearly something the federal law does not cover now."

ADL would also like to see increased funding for law enforcement investigations, and more exposure of the threats militias pose, Lieberman said.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center, which also monitors militia activity, supports the idea of bolstering law enforcement. The Los Angeles-based group said it would "welcome the idea" of a federal law dealing with militias if it "can both help law enforcement and stand the test of time and the judiciary," said Abraham Cooper, the center's associate dean.

Such legislation may soon be a reality. Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.) has taken the lead on Capitol Hill by introducing legislation on the subject in June.

Based on the ADL-inspired legislation already on the books in many states, the bill would amend the existing federal criminal code, which bans teaching techniques of violence, to include participation in such training.

"The law needs to be more tightly drawn against militias," said David Lachmann, Nadler's legislative director, of the reasons behind the bill.

After its June 20 introduction, the measure was referred to the House Judiciary Committee. No vote has been scheduled on the legislation. □

(JTA intern Avi V. Stieglitz in New York contributed to this report.)

## Jewish lawmakers targeted by anti-Semitic hate mail

By Steven M. Zeitchik

WASHINGTON (JTA) — A group of outspoken Jewish congressmen have become the latest victims of anti-Semitic attacks.

In a swastika-emblazoned fax sent to a handful of Jewish members of Congress, an unidentified group called for a "purification of our society."

"We must return to our homogeneous roots and weed out the mongrels and parasites," said the fax, whose targets included Reps. Eliot Engel, Charles Schumer and Jerrold Nadler, all Jewish Democrats from New York.

"Final Solution: Death to the Sambos and Death to the Yids," the message said.

Another more general but no less acerbic fax sent to Engel featured a fuzzy image of a stout man aiming a

gun. "If you want my gun, Socialist, you will have to come and get it!" it said.

The assault comes as Democratic members of Congress are taking steps that extremist groups perceive as a threat to their agenda.

In a recent floor debate, for instance, Engel spoke out against an amendment limiting pay raises for officials of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. Anti-government groups blame the federal agents from the bureau for the fiery death of 80 Branch Davidians in the failed 1993 raid at Waco, Texas.

Nadler has introduced legislation that would outlaw private militias.

Schumer, too, has been a perennial enemy of extremist groups, holding hearings to expose them. He has also defended the agents who operated in Waco while extremist groups have attacked them.

That the flurry of hate mail comes at a time when officials are trying to root out extremist groups highlights the distinct strain of anti-Semitism in these groups' philosophies.

"It's no coincidence that at the time we're having Waco hearings, at the time I made a speech to denounce militias, that this would happen," Engel said in a telephone interview.

Engel also harshly criticized the perpetrators.

"They're basically cowards," Engel said. "It's really a shame that 50 years after the Holocaust, there's still anti-Semitism like this."

The greatest brunt of the attacks has been borne by Schumer, the ranking Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee, which is spearheading the investigation into the Waco raid. Since the Waco hearings began last week, Schumer has received as many as three hundred pieces of hate mail and faxes, some of them containing direct threats, according to the lawmaker's office.

"You will suffer much physical pain and anguish before we transform you into something a little more useful. You will eventually be a lampshade or wallets or perhaps soap," read a fax from the United Federation of Aryan Nations, evoking images of the horrors of Nazi Germany.

Responding to the attacks, Schumer told the Washington Post, "This redoubles my efforts. The lessons of history have taught us that when you ignore these kinds of people they grow, but when they are exposed they wither." □

## Police raid on radio station sparks outcry and protests

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israeli police have raided a right-wing pirate radio station, seizing equipment and bringing its manager in for questioning.

The move, which came as Israeli troops clashed with Israeli settlers in the West Bank, sparked stormy protests and charges of undemocratic behavior.

The station, known as Channel 7, broadcasts from a ship off the coast of Israel. The ship had docked off the port of Ashdod for repairs, when police boarded it Monday with a court order. Police charged that the station had no license or other authorization to transmit its signal.

In the Knesset, news of the incident set off protests from opposition members.

Knesset members Shaul Yahalom of the National Religious Party and the Likud's Yehoshua Matza were ejected from the Knesset floor for causing disturbances.

Eliezer Sandberg of the right-wing Tsomet Party said the police raid exemplified the government's intent to silence voices of the opposition. □

## NEWS ANALYSIS

**West Bank hilltops emerge as the front line for settlers**

By Uriel Masad

TEL AVIV (JTA) — The hilltops surrounding the West Bank Jewish settlement of Efrat have emerged as the front line in the battle between the Israeli government and the Jewish settlers opposed to its current path toward peace.

The battle for the hills, which began as a land dispute months ago, turned into an ideological struggle this week as Israeli soldiers and settlers were locked in a confrontation that repeated itself over and again under a grueling West Bank sun.

This week's developments were described as the most serious mass civil disobedience since Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization embarked on a path toward Palestinian self-rule.

The clashes came as Israeli and Palestinian negotiators resumed their negotiations to conclude a new agreement that would extend self-rule in the West Bank.

Part of that agreement would include the redeployment of Israeli troops away from predominantly Arab cities.

In what became a familiar pattern, Israeli security forces removed settlers from the hills, placed them in detention, then released them — only to have the settlers return to the hills, where the drama played itself out once again.

The clashes began Monday, when Israeli police and army troops forcibly removed several hundred Jewish settlers from Givat Hadagan, a rocky hilltop near Efrat, where the settlers dug in two weeks ago to protest the government's peace policy with the Palestinians.

By Tuesday, the settlers not only returned to the hilltops near Efrat, but also set up an outpost on another hill near the West Bank settlement of Beit El.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, during a visit Tuesday to settlements in the Jordan Valley, vowed that his government would not submit to provocations and would continue to enforce the law.

**Reports of soldiers kicking people**

Rabin, clearly angered by some of the questions and protests he encountered, reportedly described the settlers' actions as "ridiculous provocations."

By Tuesday night, 200 settlers were in detention amid reports that security forces were growing increasingly brutal in their treatment of the settlers.

During the confrontations, an 11-year-old boy was reportedly pounced on by three soldiers and kicked in the groin.

A 67-year-old Holocaust survivor was reported to have been kicked repeatedly by soldiers until his arm was a bloody pulp.

The settlers, who began on Monday by adopting a strict line of passive resistance, became somewhat more confrontational in their approach by Tuesday.

Protesters on a hilltop outside Beit El placed their little children in the front lines in an attempt to stop security forces from evacuating them — or at least to make the unpleasant task even more difficult for Israeli security forces.

When asked about this new tactic by radio and television reporters, one mother compared the tactic to that used by the Palestinians during the intifada.

Rabbi Shlomo Riskin, a former New Yorker who now serves as the chief rabbi of Efrat, referred in a statement to "the downright brutality of a number of border guards."

But at the same time, he said, "many of the soldiers had tears in their eyes during the forcible evacuation."

The issue of Israeli settlement expansion catapulted to the forefront of Israeli-Palestinian relations in December and January, when Palestinians protested settler plans to construct new apartments on hillsides near Efrat.

At that time, the Israeli government halted the settlers' construction plans when the Palestinians threatened to bring the peace process to a halt.

But this time around, residents of Efrat and other Etzion bloc settlements in the West Bank were focusing less on settlement expansion than on a wider issue: their unwavering opposition to any further ceding of the West Bank to the Palestinians.

Two weeks ago, the settlers erected a tent encampment on Givat Hadagan, staking claim to land that they assert is within Efrat's municipal borders and that they refuse to hand over to the Palestinians in any future peace agreement.

An order issued by the civil administration for the settlers to evacuate the site went into effect last Friday, but went unheeded.

On Monday, security forces spent more than 10 hours in the sweltering heat to evacuate settlers from Givat Hadagan.

Hundreds of policemen, border police and soldiers took part in the operation.

With their arms linked, settlers responded by singing nationalist songs. Some sang "We Shall Overcome."

"What the government has to realize is that they can take away these buildings and shacks, but we'll be back," Efrat resident Bob Steiner told Israel Radio.

"I think every movement needs a catalyst. I think Efrat will be the catalyst for the nation," the Efrat resident added.

"What happens here will start taking over rest of country — civil disobedience until the government goes down."

The settlers' response to Monday's evacuations was to establish three more unauthorized holdouts during the night, two outside Efrat and one outside Beit El.

On Tuesday, security forces, determined to evacuate the settlers once again, moved in swiftly to remove the settlers one by one from the hillsides.

By sundown Tuesday, security forces had managed to evacuate the settlers from all three sites.

But in the early hours of the evening, hundreds of settlers from Efrat stormed Givat Hadagan and re-established themselves there again.

Leaders of the settlers movement, far from giving up, vow to establish yet more points of confrontation in the West Bank in the days to come. □

(JTA correspondent Naomi Segal in Jerusalem contributed to this report.)

**Hezbollah missile kills IDF soldier**

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — An Israeli soldier was killed Sunday in a clash with Islamic fundamentalist Hezbollah gunmen in the southern Lebanon security zone.

Sgt. Yosef Weinstock, 19, of Bnei Brak was killed in the eastern sector of the zone when a missile hit a tank accompanying his patrol, Israel Television reported.

An Israel Defense Force officer was lightly wounded by the missile.

After the clash, heavy exchanges of artillery were reported between Israeli forces and the Iranian-backed Hezbollah. □

## Ethiopian immigrant group charges educational neglect

By Michele Chabin

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Misguided Israeli educational policies are “steadily transforming Ethiopian immigrants into a black underclass,” according to a report just published by the Israel Association for Ethiopian Jews.

Titled “Creating an Underclass: How Israel’s Educational System is Failing Immigrant Youth,” the report accuses the government of providing substandard education to Ethiopian immigrants and of segregating them from other Israelis.

Although acknowledging that many officials in the Jewish Agency for Israel and the Education and Absorption ministries have made “heroic efforts” to help Ethiopian olim succeed, the association charges the government with educational neglect.

The report, compiled four years after the Operation Solomon airlift brought 14,400 Ethiopian Jews to Israel, is subtitled “A Call to Action.”

The report states that “while the problems posed by inadequate housing and job prospects are well-known, the most critical obstacle to the absorption of the Ethiopian community is the education system.”

The Ministry of Education rejected the report as biased.

Ministry spokesman Yeoshua Amishav conceded that “serious problems do remain in the integration of Ethiopian youngsters, but such biased reports add nothing to the solution of such problems.”

“This report was written without any consultation with the ministry,” Amishav said.

“It gives a black-and-white picture, which has no connection with reality.”

The ministry official said, “Just last week, we were happy to integrate the first group of Ethiopian teachers into the Israeli education system.”

“This is just one example of what is being done in Ethiopian education.”

### Sent to the weakest schools

Noting that some 50 percent of Ethiopian adults are unemployed, the report says, “For the Ethiopian community, education is the only avenue to social mobility and a critical key to the future.”

The education system, the report concludes, “has only contributed to a vicious circle of poverty, unemployment and juvenile delinquency.”

As proof, the report finds that only 7 percent of Ethiopian 12th-graders received a matriculation certificate in 1994 — the lowest showing of any ethnic group in Israel.

In contrast, 14 percent of Israeli Arabs, 40 percent of Israeli Jews, 50 percent of immigrants from the former Soviet Union and more than 80 percent of middle- and upper-middle-class students passed the exam.

According to the report, much of the problem stems from educational segregation.

At the kindergarten level, nearly 50 percent of all Ethiopians are enrolled in segregated schools, many located in caravan sites throughout Israel.

And in elementary school, Ethiopian children are often sent to the weakest schools in the country.

Between 15 percent and 20 percent of all Ethiopian second- to fifth-graders are illiterate, according to the report.

Once they turn 12 or 13 years old, more than 90 percent of Ethiopians are sent to Jewish Agency Youth Aliyah boarding schools, which also cater to “problem” youths.

Of these, the vast majority are placed on vocational tracks or in scaled-down academic programs that do not lead to full matriculation.

This type of “massive uprooting,” the report charges, “has dealt a devastating blow to the community’s family structure, with broad implications for the future.”

One consequence has been the “burgeoning phenomenon of juvenile delinquency,” which was “previously unheard of in the Ethiopian community.”

Summing up the situation, the association offered a number of recommendations:

- To end segregation, Ethiopian children should be offered the opportunity to attend schools in neighboring towns, villages or kibbutzim.
- Parents should be involved in their children’s educational progress through special programs.
- After-school enrichment programs should be developed for every Ethiopian child in need.
- The Ministry of Education and the Jewish Agency should devise plans to ensure, within five years, that the percentage of Ethiopian students matriculating from high school equals the national average.

“Barring a substantial transformation of the current educational conditions for Ethiopian students, all avenues of social mobility will be closed off to this community,” the report warns. □

## Former kibbutznik in Scotland heads to Bosnia on aid mission

By Bernard Josephs

London Jewish Chronicle

LONDON (JTA) — While Western leaders agonize over how to react to events in strife-ridden Bosnia, a former kibbutznik who now lives in Edinburgh set off on a lone mission last week to provide desperately needed help to the country’s war victims.

Nikkie du Preez, 41, who has made three previous trips to Bosnia, left Scotland on July 26 bound for Tuzla, the site of a recent influx of thousands of Bosnian Muslim refugees.

She said her goal would be to deliver to Tuzla trade union officials some \$11,000 raised by Bosnia Now, a Edinburgh-based charity she runs with two Bosnian partners.

While in Tuzla, she said in an interview, she will also search for Jewish families in the area.

“If I find them, I’ll alert the Jewish aid networks to their needs,” she added.

Du Preez stressed that taking financial aid to the town would “empower” local officials, who knew better than outsiders where the money was most needed.

“I don’t want them to see this as a handout, but as a sign of a partnership between those who want to give help and those who so desperately need it,” she said.

Du Preez — who moved from Israel to Edinburgh in 1985 — said Jews in particular should feel strongly about the Bosnia situation, given their sufferings during the Holocaust.

She also said she harbored no illusions about the dangers or hardships that await her.

“I suppose I am a wee bit afraid,” she said. “Physically, it will be very hard and pretty dangerous. There is a great shortage of water in the area, so I won’t even be able to wash.”

She noted that during a trip to the Bosnian town of Mostar two years ago, she learned that it was best to avoid the appearance of being a foreign aid worker.

“As a woman alone, no one will take me as being anyone important,” she said. “I look like someone’s aunt.” □