



## NEWS AT A GLANCE

■ **Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization appeared to be on the verge of a breakthrough for extending Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank.** Reports of an imminent agreement surfaced as Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and PLO leader Yasser Arafat huddled for a third straight day. Israel sealed off the Gaza Strip to thwart any potential terrorist attack in the event of an agreement.

■ **An Israeli court found a Jewish settler guilty of disorderly conduct for his role in anti-government demonstrations.** Moshe Feiglin was ordered to pay a \$3,300 fine or face a 10-month prison sentence. [Page 2]

■ **Israel's formal complaint against Musa Muhammad Abu Marzook was presented during the senior Hamas official's formal arrest hearing in New York.** The complaint charged that Marzook, in his capacity as head of Hamas' political bureau, was responsible for directing Hamas terror attacks against Israelis.

■ **Former Nazi SS Capt. Erich Priebke refused to talk to an Italian prosecutor who wanted to question him in Argentina.** Italy is trying Priebke in absentia for crimes against humanity while his extradition to Italy remains under appeal in Buenos Aires. Priebke admitted to participating in the 1944 massacre of 335 Italian civilians at the Ardeatine Caves near Rome.

■ **Israel ordained its first group of Ethiopian Jews.** The 12 men, who had undergone seven years of training in Israel, will be assigned to communities with large Ethiopian populations. [Page 3]

■ **British officials brought charges against three members of an Israeli soccer team on charges of endangering airline safety.** The Israelis said their behavior was provoked by a derogatory remark about kosher food by a flight attendant. [Page 4]

■ **One of the world's oldest known Bibles was returned to Israel, smuggled page by page by Jewish immigrants from Syria.** The Aleppo Codex is the first known Bible produced in book form and not on scrolls. [Page 3]

## NEWS ANALYSIS

### Charges against Hamas leader revive call for terror legislation

By Steven M. Zeitchik

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Charges that a detained leader of the militant fundamentalist Hamas movement ran a terrorist network from the United States has reinvigorated the Jewish call for Congress to pass strong anti-terrorist legislation.

But the prospects that the bill now under consideration would thwart people such as Musa Muhammad Abu Marzook from engaging in extensive fund raising in the United States do not appear encouraging.

Marzook, 44, was arrested July 25 at New York's Kennedy Airport after stepping off a plane from Dubai, a part of the United Arab Emirates.

Israel has officially launched proceedings to extradite Marzook, who has lived in the United States for 19 years.

In a brief court hearing Tuesday in New York, a federal magistrate formally told Marzook of Israel's desire to extradite him on charges of terrorism and conspiracy to commit murder.

According to an Israeli complaint presented to the court, Marzook is the head of the political bureau of Hamas, which rejects the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

The complaint also said Hamas' political bureau was responsible for "directing and coordinating" terrorist acts by Hamas in Israel and the territories. Hamas is responsible for killing 70 Israeli civilians and 40 soldiers and wounding nearly 100 others since January 1989, the Israeli complaint said.

Marzook has admitted that he is a political leader and fund-raiser for Hamas, but has denied taking any part in violence.

Stanley Cohen, Marzook's lawyer, reportedly said it would be difficult for Israel to prove its case in an American court.

The Israeli complaint also said Marzook transferred hundreds of thousands of dollars to the group, which is based in Gaza.

U.S. law enforcement officials have estimated that Hamas raises tens of millions of dollars in the United States.

### Riddled with loopholes

Fund raising among terrorist organizations has been one of the central concerns of Jewish groups pushing for tough anti-terrorism legislation.

Congressional calls for anti-terrorism legislation accelerated in the wake of the Oklahoma City bombing in April. At that time, much of the debate shifted emphasis from countering international terrorism to containing domestic terrorism.

In June, the Senate passed a bill that sought to combat both domestic and international terrorism by allowing broader government investigations, tighter immigration controls and bans on fund raising in the United States for terrorist organizations. To prevent fund raising, the bill allows for the State Department to designate a group a terrorist organization and thereby render illegal any donations made to the group.

But the provisions related to fund raising quickly came under fire by Jewish groups, who charged that the measure was riddled with loopholes.

Most problematic, according to critics, was that the bill excludes a ban on domestic affiliates of the group, requires the government to prove before a judge that the governing body of the targeted organization knowingly supported terrorist activity and requires a 30-day waiting period before the ban on a designated terrorist group can go into effect.

Jewish groups, who have made counterterrorism legislation a centerpiece of their Washington agenda, are now pinning their hopes on the House of Representatives to rectify the problems in the Senate bill.

The House Judiciary Committee passed a bill earlier this summer and floor debate in the House is scheduled for late September or early October.

Most Jewish activists publicly support the House version of the bill. "Our feeling is that the House bill goes a long way in dealing with terrorism," said Jess Hordes, Washington director of the Anti-Defamation League.

But privately, some have suggested that even though the bill does

revise some of the provisions related to fund raising, the bill as it stands would not prevent fund raising by terrorists.

Although it eliminates the 30-day "stay" period in the Senate bill, the House bill would allow for a period of "public comment," which many believe could still leave enough time for groups to transfer their funds before being shut down.

Further, the House version does not exempt domestic conduits from receiving money as the Senate bill does, but neither does it explicitly bar them. And, unlike the Senate version, the House bill does not freeze terrorist assets in American financial institutions.

Most Jewish groups believe that the House bill would be more effective in countering terrorist activities in this country.

At the same, they worry that it would not do enough to contain the U.S.-based activities of Marzook and his Hamas organization, whose network is believed to be growing.

"These groups have established elaborate political, financial and in some areas, operational infrastructures in the United States," terrorism expert Steven Emerson wrote in a recent article in *The New Republic* magazine.

Marzook provides the most concrete example of this burgeoning movement.

His detention by immigration officials when he tried to enter the United States last month has renewed a call for tougher law enforcement against immigrants suspected of terrorism.

Such provisions are being considered as part of the terrorism legislation.

But raising the specter of immigration restrictions also raises thorny civil rights questions.

At what point does protecting national security infringe on the sacred territory of civil liberties? And would striking a delicate balance between these two important but often contradictory concerns prevent a future Marzook?

Jewish groups disagree over how best to maintain civil liberties and at the same time enable the deportation of immigrants suspected of terrorism.

At least one Jewish organization is so concerned over the issue that it does not support the current House version. The House bill poses "a serious danger to the constitutional protections of all of us," said Richard Foltin, legislative director of the American Jewish Committee.

Despite all the jostling over details, however, Jewish leaders say the overall importance of the legislation must be kept in perspective.

"The very fact that we have a bill for the first time that will address terrorism is a very important step," said Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

"One or two years ago, people thought it wasn't possible." □

## D'Amato introduces legislation to ban Hamas members from U.S.

By Steven M. Zeitchik

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Concerned about the ability of Hamas activists to slip into the United States unnoticed, Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R-N.Y.) has introduced legislation that would ban any Hamas member from the country.

D'Amato's legislation, known as the Hamas Exclusion Act of 1995, comes in the wake of the recent detention of leading Hamas activist Musa Muhammad Abu Marzook as he tried to re-enter the United States.

Israel is seeking to extradite Marzook from the United States.

Under current U.S. immigration law, many Hamas activists, including Marzook, are banned from entering the country for other violations, including suspected terrorist activities.

D'Amato hopes to streamline the process, excluding any Hamas member on the grounds of their membership in the militant Islamic group, he said in a statement.

"The United States cannot be a haven for those who belong to terrorist organizations whose entire reason is to kill, maim and bring suffering to innocent men, women and children," D'Amato said in the statement.

A similar measure failed to gain support in Congress two years ago.

Congressional aides expressed hope that this time around the measure would meet a better fate as it advances to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

No hearing date has yet been scheduled.

Rep. Peter Deutsch (D-Fla.) introduced a similar bill in the House before Congress adjourned for its August recess last week. □

## Israeli court indicts settler for anti-peace demonstrations

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — An Israeli court has issued what appears to be the first indictment against a protester since Jewish settlers launched their latest wave of demonstrations against Israel's peace initiatives with the Palestinians.

The Rehovot Magistrates Court found Moshe Feiglin guilty of disorderly conduct and ordered him to pay a \$3,300 fine or face a 10-month prison sentence. He was also given a six-month suspended prison sentence.

Feiglin is a leader of the right-wing group *Zo Artzeinu*, or "This is Our Land."

The group organized protests Tuesday in which right-wing Israelis engaged in shoving matches with police and blocked roads throughout Israel, causing traffic jams during the evening rush hour.

Police spokesman Eric Bar-Chen said Feiglin had been arrested after refusing a police order to move out of the street. He said 25 demonstrators remained in detention of the 150 arrested Tuesday. Others may have charges pressed against them, he said.

Feiglin, slapped with the fine a day after the demonstrations, said he would not pay.

"We have entered a stage of real passive civil disobedience, where you're willing to accept the price of what you do. I'd rather sit in jail" than pay the fine, Feiglin told Israel Radio in a telephone interview from his home in the West Bank Jewish settlement *Karnei Shomron*.

"I believe this is the right thing to do," he added.

Meanwhile, some opposition members criticized the demonstrators for blocking roads.

Rafael Eitan, leader of the far-right *Tsomet* Party, said the disruption of traffic could alienate Israelis previously sympathetic to the settlers' stance.

Despite the warnings, settlers resumed their demonstrations on hilltops in the West Bank on Wednesday. Police removed demonstrators from a site near *Karnei Tsur* after a confrontation earlier with local Palestinians.

In another development, the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judea and Samaria asked police to find those responsible for distributing anti-settler bumper stickers during a rally in Tel Aviv against French plans for nuclear testing.

The bumper stickers read, "Don't Remove Settlers, Shoot Them in the Head." □

## Ethiopian Jews mark first rabbinic ordinations in Israel

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The first group of Ethiopian Jews to be ordained as rabbis in Israel were officially appointed to their new status at a ceremony at Jerusalem's Great Synagogue this week.

The group of twelve had undergone seven years of training in Israel. All had come to Israel on Operation Moses, the first mass airlift of Ethiopian Jews to the Jewish state in 1984-1985.

The new rabbis will be assigned to communities with large Ethiopian populations.

Both of Israel's chief rabbis attended Wednesday's ordination ceremony. Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau later said that he hoped that the rabbis' ordination would help advance the Ethiopian community's integration into Israeli society.

Religious Affairs Minister Shimon Shetreet, who also attended the ceremony, called it a historic event that marked the closing of a circle from the days the Ethiopian community was "not even recognized as Jews, to the day they are appointed rabbis." □

## Government committee curtails Shin Bet interrogation methods

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — A ministerial committee has rejected a request by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to grant extended interrogation powers to the Shin Bet, Israel's domestic security service.

The committee extended a permit to use increased force during the interrogation of terror suspects by only one week, rather than for the three months Rabin had sought.

Justice Minister David Libai, Environment Minister Yossi Sarid and Attorney General Michael Ben-Yair, all of whom serve on the committee, were sharply opposed to extending the authorization. They cited doubts over the legality of some of the Shin Bet's interrogation methods.

In 1987, a government panel allowed the Shin Bet to use what was described as "moderate physical pressure" during questioning.

But Israeli authorities relaxed Shin Bet interrogation rules last year, after Islamic fundamentalists launched a series of fatal suicide bombing attacks against Israelis.

The special powers were granted for three months, and have been extended several times.

Debate over the Shin Bet's interrogation methods was renewed in April, when a suspected Hamas activist, Abdel-Samed Hassan Harizat, died after interrogation by Shin Bet officials.

A Scottish doctor who attended the autopsy said Harizat had suffered fatal injuries after being shaken violently by interrogators.

Despite the ministers' opposition, Rabin repeated his position that the battle against terror requires the use of all available tools. "It is impossible to question a terrorist over a cup of coffee," he was quoted as saying. □

## With a little help from friends, pirate station returns to the air

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — One week after being closed down by Israeli authorities for operating without a license, a right-wing pirate radio station has returned to the airwaves, broadcasting from a boat outside Israel's territorial waters.

Police last week raided the station, Channel Seven, confiscating equipment while the station's boat was docked at the port of Ashdod for repairs.

The incident raised a storm in the Knesset, with opposition members calling the move an attempt by the government to stifle voices of the opposition.

"There is a horrible feeling that this is dangerous policy," said Likud faction leader Moshe Katsav.

"Is talking also prohibited?" the faction leader added.

Katsav was one of six Knesset opposition members — including Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu and Rafael Eitan, leader of the right-wing Tsomet Party — who tried out their sea legs and joined Channel Seven in its first day of broadcasts this week.

Staff at the radio station said they were able to get back on the air because supporters from abroad had donated money and equipment.

Meanwhile, Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni has asked a parliamentary committee that oversees broadcasters to discuss a proposal submitted by Abie Nathan to restart broadcasts of "The Voice of Peace" from a permanent location inside Israel.

For more than 20 years, "The Voice of Peace" made its pirate-radio broadcasts from a boat off the shores of Israel.

Nathan, its initiator, took the station off the air when Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization embarked on their historic peace process.

But in the wake of the recent debate about Channel Seven, Nathan has called for resuming his pro-peace broadcasts. □

## Ancient Bible completes its long exodus from Syria

NEW YORK (JTA) — One of the world's oldest known Bibles has been brought back to Israel, smuggled page by page by Jewish immigrants from Syria, an Israeli newspaper recently reported.

The Aleppo Codex, known as the Keter Aram Tsova in Hebrew, was written in Tiberias about 1,000 years ago.

It is the first known Bible produced in book form and not on scrolls, said biblical scholar Menachem Cohen of Bar-Ilan University in Ramat Gan.

It is also considered the most authoritative and grammatically perfect copy of the Old Testament in existence, Cohen said.

The book is believed to have been seized in Jerusalem by 12th-century crusaders and sold to Jews in Alexandria, Egypt.

Maimonides is said to have studied the book in Egypt while he composed some of his most important works.

It subsequently found its way to the Jewish community of Aleppo in northern Syria.

The Jews of northern Syria apparently guarded the book zealously, rarely allowing outsiders to see the parchment.

About two-thirds of it, some 295 pages, was smuggled into Israel under still mysterious circumstances in the 1950s.

For decades, Jews were not allowed to emigrate from Syria.

Only in the past few years, after the Middle East peace process began, did Syrian President Hafez Assad allow the Jews to leave.

As a result, recent Syrian Jewish immigrants reportedly brought the missing pages of the rare book to Israel. □

## Britain kicks in charges against Israeli soccer players

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Reversing an earlier decision, British officials have brought charges against three members of an Israeli soccer team for endangering airline safety.

Five members of the Hapoel Haifa soccer team were released from police custody in London on Sunday after being questioned about their allegedly rowdy behavior while on a July 3 Air UK flight that went from Germany to England.

Scotland Yard investigators said at the time of their release that they had found no proof to press charges against them.

But after speaking to airline staff, British police arrested three of the team members on Wednesday and ordered them to stay in England until the end of the proceedings.

According to the charge sheet, coach Avraham Grant and players Reuven Atar and Tal Benin had refused to sit down and fasten their seat belts prior to landing, causing the airplane to abort its first landing approach.

The plane later landed safely at Stansted Airport, northeast of London.

The team members maintained that the disturbance on the plane resulted from a derogatory remark a flight attendant made about kosher food.

According to Grant, the team's coach, the flight attendant responded to a request for kosher food by referred to the food as "disgusting."

Grant said earlier in the week that he intended to sue the airline.

If Grant and the two players are found guilty of endangering aircraft safety, they could be fined \$640 to \$3,200 each and face up to two years in jail. □

## Jewish Agency to boost efforts to bring Ukrainian Jews to Israel

By Joseph Millis

London Jewish Chronicle

LONDON (JTA) — The head of operations for the Jewish Agency for Israel in the former Soviet Union has said the organization would increase its efforts to bring Jews from Ukraine to Israel.

"Ukraine has the largest emigration potential for the whole of the former Soviet Union.

"With its 500,000 Jews, it is home to the fifth-largest Jewish population in the world," Chaim Chesler, the head emissary in the former Soviet Union, said in an interview here.

Chesler recently was in London as a guest of the Joint Israel Appeal, British Jewry's main fund-raising body for Israel.

"The hardships there are enormous. The monthly salary is about \$20 to \$30," Chesler said of life in Ukraine.

"We are now putting most of our efforts into getting the Jews out of there," he added.

He cited Ukraine's history as another reason for emigration.

"In 1941, the Nazis conquered the country and slaughtered millions of people," Chesler said.

"Some of the Jews are buried in mass graves only a few meters away from where the community is living now."

Chesler, who oversees more than 100 emissaries in 31 offices throughout the former Soviet Union, said that as far as Russian Jews were concerned, a "window of

opportunity" existed for getting them out, especially in Moscow and St. Petersburg, where about 50 percent of Russia's Jews live.

"The economic situation is much much better than it was two or three years ago, when I had to bring food with me when I came from Israel," he said. "I think that if the economic improvements continue, Jews will prefer to stay there."

But he warned that if Jews decided to stay in Russia, the community might disappear.

"In Russia the rate of assimilation is 95 percent," he said.

"If they decide to stay, there will be no more Jews in the country." □

## Orthodox Jews in Holland ruffled by ads against AIDS

By Ruben Vis

AMSTERDAM (JTA) — Some Jews here have voiced their opposition to an outdoor advertisement campaign against AIDS.

The advertisement depicts a nude black man and a white woman, who is in her underwear and is holding a condom.

In the ad, the woman is saying to the man: "If you put something on, I take something off."

The Dutch health minister, Elizabeth Borst, said she would not take any steps to thwart the campaign.

The minister said public health is more important than some people feeling offended.

"The freedom of choice is a very important right to me," Borst said.

"For the cause of public health we need to have an open eye for people who like to have changing sexual contacts."

Anonymous Orthodox Jews who found such a poster in a bus shelter in front of an Amsterdam synagogue put a sticker over the nude bodies with a text promoting monogamy between husband and wife.

The Central Israelite Consistoire for the Benelux, the umbrella body for Jewish groups in Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg, filed a complaint at the district attorney's office in Amsterdam.

Individual Jews also have complained to the city government.

In addition, Christian political parties here have deemed the advertisements offensive.

Fervently Orthodox Jews in Israel and America have complained and even attacked similar kinds of billboards in outdoor advertisement campaigns. □

## Palestinians deny request for suspects in three killings

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Palestinian officials have rejected an Israeli request to hand over suspects believed to be linked to the killing of three Israelis.

Israeli Justice Minister David Libai met Sunday with his Palestinian counterpart, Freih Abu Medein, to discuss the refusal.

According to previous statements, the Palestinians were linking the extradition requests to the release of Palestinians held in Israeli jails, a subject that has come up repeatedly in the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

After meeting with Libai, Medein said the Palestinians would comply with the requests if they were submitted according to all the requirements for extraditions previously worked out between the two sides, including the furnishing of evidence linking the suspects to the killings. □