



# Daily News Bulletin

Vol. 76, No. 199

Monday, November 9, 1998

81<sup>st</sup> Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Israel: Outlaw the militants

Israel demanded that the Palestinian Authority outlaw the military wings of Hamas and Islamic Jihad. Palestinian officials countered that they had already banned the groups, adding that they were rounding up Islamic Jihad activists.

The roundup came after last Friday's suicide car-bomb attack in Jerusalem's bustling Mahane Yehuda market, which wounded at least 21 Israelis.

The two bombers who died in the attack were identified as Islamic Jihad members from the West Bank.

### Minister predicts Cabinet action

Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai predicted the Cabinet would convene in the coming days to resume discussion of the Wye agreement.

The Cabinet, which was in session last Friday when suicide bombers struck in Jerusalem, immediately suspended its deliberations on the accord.

Meanwhile, President Clinton condemned the attack as "an outrageous and cowardly act," but he urged the two sides not to let it derail the peace process. [Page 2]

### Duma faces accusations

The lower house of Russia's Parliament faced accusations of fueling anti-Semitism after it rejected a resolution criticizing a Communist lawmaker for anti-Jewish remarks he made last month.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin said in a statement he was "indignant" at the rejection of the censure of Gen. Albert Makashov, who recently said, among things, that "it is time to expel all yids from Russia." [Page 3]

### Israelis arrested in Cyprus

Two Israelis arrested in Cyprus on suspicion of spying were not working for Israel, officials in Nicosia said.

A statement released by the Justice Ministry in Cyprus said no proof had been found linking Israel to the two men, Udi Argov, 27, and Yigal Damari, 49.

The two were arrested Saturday after police raided the apartment they were staying in near the city of Larnaca.

According to reports, the two are suspected of spying on Cypriot military operations.

## Court orders U.S. to support survivor's compensation claim

By Daniel Kurtzman

WASHINGTON (JTA) — In the long-running, carefully considered process of securing compensation for Holocaust survivors who suffered at the hands of Nazi Germany, somehow Jack Miller has fallen through the cracks.

The 70-year-old survivor only wants what he believes should be rightfully his — the same lump-sum payment other U.S. nationals who were interned in concentration camps are due to receive from the German government in coming months.

The U.S. State Department, however, has refused to put forward Miller's claim. In fact, it has vigorously fought a lawsuit Miller filed seeking to force the department to present his case for the German government to consider.

But now a federal judge, siding with Miller, has ordered the department to do so.

Under terms set forth in a 1995 U.S. court ruling, which awarded Hugo Princz and 10 other Americans imprisoned by the Nazis some \$2.1 million, the United States and Germany have been negotiating an agreement that would provide payments for more than 200 additional American survivors of the Holocaust.

Miller, a U.S. citizen who is now living in Santiago, Chile, submitted a claim for compensation under the agreement in 1997, but the U.S. Foreign Claims Settlement Commission, based on guidance from the State Department, rejected it. The commission determined that Miller did not qualify for compensation because he had previously been receiving a special pension for non-U.S. citizens from the German government.

That pension, however, was erroneously awarded to Miller. In 1995, the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany awarded him a \$290 monthly pension based on the understanding that he was not a U.S. citizen at the time of his internment.

Until recently, that had been Miller's understanding as well. For years, the United States did not recognize Miller as an American victim of the Holocaust because he was born to an American mother overseas. Up until 1994, U.S. law only recognized those born abroad to American fathers as citizens, and Miller's father was Slovakian.

But a 1994 law passed by Congress retroactively conferred citizenship on children born abroad to American women. That technically makes Miller ineligible for the pension he is currently receiving from the German government for non-U.S. citizens, and the German government has a right to reclaim it.

If that happens, and if the U.S. government does not put forward his claim to Germany, Miller could be left with no compensation, while also facing the prospect of having to come up with a way to repay what he has already received.

In denying Miller's claim, the commission took the unusual step of determining the monetary amount — \$95,000 — that Miller would be eligible to receive if the State Department did submit his claim.

For a Holocaust survivor living "hand to mouth," as his lawyer describes, the material difference is huge between the \$290 monthly pension he is currently receiving and the \$95,000 lump-sum payment for which he would otherwise be eligible.

In ordering the State Department last month to support Miller's claim, U.S. District Court Judge Harold Greene said that "to render a decision in favor of the Department of State would mean that this plaintiff — a man who was interned in a concentration camp, who watched as his father was tortured, who was starved, beaten and physically abused, and who was forced to engage in hard labor — would be deprived of compensation from any source." Greene added that the State Department has "shed

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Rabbi arrested for swindling

Israeli authorities took a rabbi into custody for allegedly swindling tens of millions of dollars from financial institutions around the world.

An Israeli police spokesman said Yossef Prushe-nowsky, who contributed large sums to Chasidic communities over the years, had evaded arrest in several countries for more than a decade.

### Suskin wins parole

Israel released a 26-year-old woman who put up posters in the West Bank town of Hebron in June of last year depicting Islam's Prophet Mohammed as a pig.

Officials said Tatyana Suskin's release after serving two-thirds of her two-year sentence was based on good behavior.

### Israel helping victims

Israel is sending emergency aid to the Central American nations of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua in the wake of the devastation caused last week by Hurricane Mitch.

The aid will include medical supplies, medical teams and agricultural teams to help rebuild crops in the stricken areas.

### Refugees denounce Wye accord

Palestinians living in Lebanon's largest refugee camp denounced Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat for signing the Wye agreement last month in Maryland.

Protesters at the Ain el-Hilweh camp also burned Israeli and U.S. flags.

The Lebanese government views the presence of some 356,000 Palestinian refugees in the country as a destabilizing influence.

Lebanon wants an Israeli-Palestinian agreement that will call for the refugees to leave the Jewish state's northern neighbor.

ample paper tears about the plight of Holocaust victims, the need for morality and the responsibility to compensate those victims. Yet the deeds do not match the words."

The State Department, meanwhile, is asking the judge to stay the order. If that fails, the department intends to seek an emergency appeal.

The matter has taken on some urgency because the United States and Germany are close to wrapping up the agreement on compensation.

Steven Perles, Miller's lawyer, said if a stay is granted, that would effectively end Miller's chances of receiving compensation under the agreement because the claims process is due to be completed by the end of the year.

Perles said it remains to be seen "whether the government is going to be so difficult here that they will attempt to hold up the whole program in order to prove that no one can tell the State Department what to do. That would be catastrophic for a lot of these rather aged survivors."

State Department officials would not comment on the case. □

## U.S. urges Wye implementation after terror attack in Jerusalem

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — U.S. officials have urged Israel and the Palestinian Authority to move ahead with the Wye agreement, despite a spate of terrorist attacks aimed at derailing the peace process.

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright telephoned Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority leader Yasser Arafat last Friday after a suicide bombing at Jerusalem's Mahane Yehuda market wounded at least 21 Israelis. The two suicide bombers were the only fatalities.

Albright reportedly appealed to them not to let the enemies of peace derail implementation of the Wye accord, which calls for Israel to transfer 13 percent of the West Bank to the Palestinians in exchange for concrete actions against terrorism.

The Israeli Cabinet, which was in session last Friday when the suicide bombers struck, immediately suspended its deliberations on the accord. The Cabinet later issued a statement that it would ratify the agreement only after the Palestinian Authority fulfills its security obligations under the accord.

Just the same, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai predicted the Cabinet would convene in the coming days to resume discussion of the agreement.

At a weekend rally, Netanyahu announced that Israel would continue to build in Jerusalem, including Har Homa. The start of infrastructure work in March 1997 at the controversial site in southeastern Jerusalem prompted a deadlock in the negotiations with the Palestinians that lasted 18 months.

After Arafat denounced last Friday's bombing, the Palestinian Authority launched a roundup of activists from Islamic Jihad, which claimed responsibility for the attack.

Palestinian security officials said Sunday that the two bombers in the attack, identified as Yousuf Zagayeh, 22, and Suleiman Tahaine, 23, were members of an Islamic Jihad cell from the Jenin area.

The two, who were brothers-in-law, lived in West Bank villages under overall Israeli security responsibility and had served time in Israeli prisons for security offenses.

The two were driving past the Mahane Yehuda market — which was crowded with pre-Sabbath shoppers — when explosions went off, setting the car on fire. Israeli security officials investigating the attack said it appeared that the bombs had exploded prematurely, and that this had prevented the death toll from being higher.

Two Israeli border police who heard the first explosion and ordered people away from the car were honored Sunday for averting a far greater disaster.

The Mahane Yehuda attack came a week after a car bombing in the Gaza Strip narrowly missed a school bus filled with children, but killed one Israeli soldier in a jeep that was escorting the bus.

Mahane Yehuda was the site of an even bloodier attack in July 1997, when two suicide bombers claimed 16 victims and wounded 170 others. □



## Daily News Bulletin

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JTA DAILY NEWS BULLETIN is published five days a week, except holidays, by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Inc., 330 Seventh Ave., New York, N.Y. 10001-5010. For information about how to subscribe by e-mail, fax or regular mail, call (212) 643-1890, or visit our Web site at [www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org).

## JEWISH WORLD

### Priest attacks Jewish groups

A Polish priest known for his anti-Semitic remarks attacked Jewish groups for objecting to the presence of crosses near the site of the Auschwitz concentration camp.

Father Henryk Jankowski claimed that Jewish calls for the area around Auschwitz to be granted a special status were remindful of Nazi demands in 1939 for Poland to yield control over portions of the country.

His attack came at the end of a one-year ban on his preaching from the pulpit that had been imposed for his earlier anti-Semitic comments.

### List of artwork looters found

The World Jewish Congress said it found a list of some 2,000 people who were involved in the Nazi looting of Jewish-owned artworks during World War II.

The list, which was unearthed from recently declassified documents in the U.S. National Archives, includes some of Europe's most prominent art dealers, a WJC official said.

### Bubis warns of attacks

The leader of Germany's Jewish community said he fears anti-Semitic attacks by far-right extremists will mar the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of Kristallnacht.

Ignatz Bubis said anti-Semitism is on the rise in Germany and that extremists may strike on the usually solemn anniversary of the Nov. 9-10, 1938, Nazi pogrom.

### Neo-Nazis march in Moscow

Some 50 neo-Nazis marched through downtown Moscow chanting anti-Semitic slogans.

Police did not interfere with the members of the National Front, a newly formed group that unites neo-Nazis with radical nationalist groups.

### Bank investigates charges

The parent company of Chase Manhattan Bank said it is investigating charges that its Paris branch froze the assets of its Jewish customers in France before the Nazis issued an order to do so.

A preliminary study indicated that fewer than 100 accounts may be involved in the charges, Chase officials said.

### Film sparks protests

Muslims and Arab Americans and their supporters are protesting a new movie about domestic terrorism. They say "The Siege," which focuses on overzealous American officials who indiscriminately round up large numbers of Arab-Americans after an attack pinned on Middle East terrorists, promotes negatives stereotypes.

## Russian Parliament under fire for failing to censure extremist

By Lev Krichevsky

MOSCOW (JTA) — The lower house of Russia's Parliament is facing accusations of fueling anti-Semitism after it rejected a resolution criticizing a Communist lawmaker for anti-Jewish remarks he made last month.

President Boris Yeltsin criticized the Duma, saying he was "indignant" at the rejection of the motion to censure Gen. Albert Makashov, who recently said, among other things, that "it is time to expel all yids from Russia."

"Extremism will not take the upper hand in Russia," Yeltsin said in a statement.

In fact, Makashov is not alone in blaming the Jews for Russia's economic hardships.

Anti-Jewish banners were evident at two rallies that drew 20,000 people over the weekend to mark the 81st anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution.

The rejected motion, which did not criticize Makashov directly, said his comments were "harsh and bordering on rude" and had provoked concern across Russian society. It fell far short of receiving the 226 votes it would have needed for passage in the Duma.

Pyotr Shelisch, a Jewish member of the Duma, said it was important that the vote took place because it showed where the Communists stand on the issue of anti-Semitism.

Boris Berezovsky, a Jewish tycoon, called for the banning of the Communist Party, the main opposition party in the Parliament.

The debate in the Duma received unusually extensive coverage in the Russian mass media. One television channel, NTV, called Nov. 5 a "black day" for Russian Communists who showed their true colors when they "trampled on multiethnic Russia."

In Washington, the National Conference on Soviet Jewry commended Yeltsin for his remarks, but also called for further action.

"It is time to look for ways to make fundamental changes in how the Russian people and Russian leadership think of their fellow Jewish citizens," Mark Levin, executive director of the NCSJ, said in a telephone interview.

"Now is the time to dig out the root of systemic anti-Semitism that exists in Russia. It needs to be addressed before it gets out of hand."

Russian state prosecutors had said they were considering bringing criminal charges against Makashov. But these attempts by authorities to prosecute him have stalled. As a Duma deputy, he enjoys immunity from prosecution and can only be stripped of this immunity by the chamber.

Meanwhile, the Communists appear to have reneged on their earlier promise to dissociate themselves from Makashov's statements.

Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov tried to limit the damage caused by the affair by saying that Makashov had been issued a reprimand by the party.

But Zyuganov also said in an interview last week that if some Jews are insulted by Makashov's remarks, Communists are ready to take part in a "Russian-Jewish dialogue" that should also involve "numerous facts" of humiliation and insults to the Russian people.

Other hard-line legislators also defended Makashov. Another Communist lawmaker, Yuri Chunkov, said that many people in his native Siberia share the views expressed by Makashov. And Vassily Shandybin, a Communist representing central Russia, said all Jews are to blame even when a single Jew acts as a "traitor."

Vladimir Zhirinovsky, the leader of the Liberal Democratic Party, chimed in by saying that the remarks were understandable given the hardships experienced by the Russian people.

For his part, Makashov said the issue is not one of anti-Semitism. He said that by using the word "yids" he meant to attack Zionism, which is a "threat to Russia."

Some analysts suggested that the issue could damage the future electoral chances of the Communist Party. The rejection of the resolution is said to have seriously embarrassed Zyuganov, who was absent from the Duma during the vote. □

## Jewish groups rush to aid victims of Hurricane Mitch

By Mica Schneider

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The American Jewish community has moved with a sense of urgency to aid Hurricane Mitch's victims as the death toll and destruction mounts.

The American Jewish World Service and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee are two of the organizations tapping the pool of Jewish resources nationwide to help Mitch's victims.

The powerful hurricane killed at least 10,000 people and left more than 1 million others homeless in Honduras alone.

As of last week, \$40,000 had poured in from Jewish groups and individuals, according to AJWS President Ruth Messinger.

"We're hearing from people who want to contribute their expertise, money or supplies and we're acting as a liaison between Honduran and Nicaraguan groups and Jewish organizations that want to donate" supplies, Messinger said. "One man walked into the office and wrote us a check for \$1,000. Another called to see if shoes were needed — he owns a shoe factory."

The country's small Jewish community was not spared Mitch's wrath. In Tegucigalpa, Honduras' capital, the community of about 30 families lost the small synagogue they built from an old home a year ago.

"We are starting from zero," Florencia Colindres, 39, said in a telephone interview from Honduras. "We found one Torah in the mud, but it is probably ruined."

No Jews died in Honduras, the president of the Jewish community said, but water supplies remain low and a possible cholera epidemic has everyone worried.

The AJWS relief has reached Central American soil before. For 10 years, the organization has contributed funds — and for the past five years, volunteers — to education, farming and conflict resolution projects in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

"The central office we work from in Honduras is OK, but they can't assess the damages to the projects yet because the roads and bridges leading to the villages are destroyed," Messinger said. "We've been told progress has gone back 30 years."

Will Recant, director of special projects for the JDC, said his organization will concentrate on both the intermediate and long-term needs of those who survived Mitch.

The destruction of crops and the inaccessibility of many regions leads observers to believe that the hardships have only just begun.

"This situation cannot be taken care of in an hour, a week or a month," Recant said. "This will take months and years."

After assessing the damages and determining what resources are needed, Recant said, "we'll contact partners already active in the region to see if our medical volunteers or maybe small business developers can be of help."

Colindres, who was in New York when the hurricane hit, said she couldn't believe the scenes she saw when she returned home.

"The people just didn't believe it would be so bad," she said. "We heard the police were in the streets yelling, 'Get out, get out,' but the people were confident. And now, how do you give hope" to people? "They have nothing."

Messinger said the AJWS will work alongside the JDC, and will also provide medical supplies and food through Direct Relief

International, a source of medicine and tools to disadvantaged people around the world. Messinger expected the first plane of medical supplies to depart for Central America later this week. □

## Swiss panel charges politicians made anti-Semitism 'acceptable'

By Fredy Rom

ZURICH (JTA) — The debate about Switzerland's wartime dealings with the Nazis has fueled a wave of anti-Semitism in the Alpine nation, the country's human rights watchdog panel said.

The Federal Commission Against Racism said in a report issued Nov. 5 that "latent anti-Semitism is again being increasingly expressed in public by word and by deed."

The panel added, "Comments from politicians helped make anti-Semitism socially acceptable."

The Federation of Jewish Communities in Switzerland, the umbrella group representing the country's 20,000 Jews, welcomed the panel's report.

"The commission's findings show that there is a significant need in Switzerland to improve education so that there is better knowledge of and communication with the Jewish minority," the federation said in a statement.

Thomas Lyssy, the federation's vice president, said in an interview on Swiss Television that the community is expecting the government to be "more outspoken" in condemning all manifestations of anti-Semitism.

In New York, the Anti-Defamation League also welcomed the report, calling it "honest, hard-hitting and realistic."

The report recognizes that recent manifestations of anti-Semitism are a "classical response of a society in crisis which blames Jews for problems it is unwilling to face," the ADL said.

For months, there have been reports of Swiss anti-Semitism in reaction to pressure from the World Jewish Congress and other groups for the nation's banks to settle Holocaust-era claims. Resentment against the Jewish-led calls increased after the nation's leading banks agreed in August to pay \$1.25 billion to settle the claims.

The anti-Semitic backlash also surfaced in the wake of recent, well-publicized cases in which Holocaust refugees sued the Swiss government for turning back Jewish refugees during the war.

In August, Switzerland's president used the commemoration of Swiss National Day to issue a call against anti-Semitism.

Flavio Cotti called on the Swiss to reject anti-Semitism, despite what he called "unjustified" attacks against Switzerland for its dealings with Nazi Germany.

Swiss anger over what its citizens consider efforts to tarnish the country's image recently spilled over against a new target — a member of the nation's Parliament.

Jean Ziegler, who is also a professor at the University of Geneva, called on Switzerland's banks to honestly confront their wartime actions in his book "The Swiss, the Gold and the Dead."

A group of Swiss financiers and businessmen recently filed criminal charges against Ziegler, saying he was "an accomplice to blackmail" of the nation's banking system.

A parliamentary committee is expected to determine soon whether Ziegler will be stripped of his parliamentary immunity so he can be tried on the charges. □