



# Daily News Bulletin

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82<sup>nd</sup> Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Two Israelis die in earthquake

Two Israeli tourists are reported dead and one has been rescued in a massive earthquake in Turkey that has killed more than 6,000 people so far. "There was a shaking, I woke up and said [to my husband] 'Itzik, the kids.'

"He said 'wow' and then nothing," Iris Franco told Israel Radio after she crawled to safety. "That's when everything happened, the whole room collapsed on us."

Her husband, two children and in-laws remained trapped in the ruins.

### Buford Furrow indicted

A U.S. federal grand jury indicted white supremacist Buford O'Neal Furrow for allegedly killing a postal worker after he shot five people at a Jewish community center in Los Angeles. Officials said that Furrow would first be charged for killing Joseph Iletto before he is tried for the shooting rampage at the JCC.

### Peace talks break down

Israeli and Palestinian peace talks collapsed over differences on the release of Palestinian prisoners.

But Israeli Justice Minister Yossi Beilin said the disagreement is not likely to impede negotiations on implementation of the Wye accord.

Israel has offered to release prisoners jailed for both security and criminal offenses but says it will not free Palestinians with "blood on their hands."

### Iran 13 not charged

Charges were not brought against the 13 Jews held in Iran for spying for Israel, as had been anticipated. Leaders of American Jewish organizations had quoted official Iranian sources indicating that charges would be brought Thursday in court.

### Did Pataki favor rabbis?

The U.S. Attorney's Office is investigating whether New York parole officials gave favorable treatment to a rabbi after pressure from a Jewish fund-raiser for New York Gov. George Pataki's campaign, according to The New York Times.

Prosecutors are investigating whether a parole official facilitated the release of Rabbi Shlomo Helbrans on kidnapping charges because of "improper political pressure" from Rabbi Leon Perlmutter.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES

### In era of the 'lone wolf' extremist, anti-Semitic terror hard to prevent

By Daniel Kurtzman

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Last week's shooting rampage at a Jewish community center in Los Angeles struck an all-too-familiar chord of fear in the Jewish psyche.

The fear comes not only because this was the latest in a string of recent violent anti-Semitic attacks across the country, but because it was carried out at random by a lone extremist intent on sending a message — an unmistakable echo of the kinds of terrorist attacks Israelis have long suffered.

In taking a page from the book of Islamic terrorism — and by following the example of the Oklahoma City bombing — right-wing extremists in America have apparently learned that it does not take a mass movement to carry out their agenda: just one well-armed individual.

"This incident was not just a hate crime. It was a terrorist attack," said Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles.

Taken together with the other recent anti-Semitic attacks and threats, the Los Angeles assault that wounded five people at the community center, including three children under 10, and took the life of a postal worker, has created a climate of fear among Jews unseen in this decade.

This summer alone, the torching of three synagogues in Sacramento, the discovery of a "hit list" of Jewish community leaders in Northern California, the shooting spree in an Orthodox neighborhood in Chicago, last week's attack on the Jewish Community Center in Granada Hills and a series of other incidents have terrorized the Jewish community.

The image of children linking hands as they were led away from the site of last week's shooting jarred the entire nation, especially after the suspected gunman's declaration, upon turning himself in, that he wanted to send "a wake-up call to America to kill Jews."

Despite the frequency and fervor of the recent attacks, federal and state investigators and experts who monitor hate activity maintain there is no evidence of an organized effort by white supremacists or other right-wing groups to target the Jewish community or other minorities.

Nor is there evidence of an upsurge in the number of people affiliated with those groups, although a growing number of self-proclaimed hate groups have skillfully used the Internet to announce their presence and expand their reach.

Instead, what some experts fear is a rise in so-called "leaderless resistance," which has spawned a wave of independent, "copycat" attacks.

"There seem to be a series of lone wolves acting on the basis of ideology that's put out by hate groups all over this country," said Mark Potok, an analyst with the Southern Poverty Law Center, a Montgomery, Ala.-based organization that tracks hate groups.

"It looks almost like a series of copycat crimes as much as the beginning of a revolution."

Like other groups that monitor hate activity, the center has received numerous threats from extremists in recent weeks, according to Potok.

One letter sent in the wake of the deadly shooting spree carried out in Illinois and Indiana by Benjamin Nathaniel Smith over the July 4 weekend called the gunman "a martyr to the cause" of creating an "international Aryan commonwealth."

"He isn't even the tip of the iceberg," the letter stated. "He's just a grain of sand

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Israel reopens Hebron street

Israel reopened a main street in Hebron on Thursday that had been sealed since a Jewish settler killed 29 Muslim worshipers in the West Bank town five years ago.

Restrictions on Palestinian traffic on Shuhada Street were eased in 1997, but the street, which runs through Israeli-controlled parts of the town connecting Jewish enclaves, was resealed following a series of terrorist attacks and dashes. About 450 Jewish settlers and 140,000 Palestinians live in Hebron, making it a flash point for violence.

### German sentenced to 10 years

A German convicted in an Israeli court of helping the militant Islamic group Hezbollah was sentenced to 10 years in prison. The mother of Stephan Smyrek, 27, who had traveled to Israel for the verdict, burst into tears after hearing the sentence Thursday and said her son intended to appeal.

### Barak calls for military aid

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak told the chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff that American assistance is needed to maintain Israel's military edge in the Middle East. Barak emphasized the need for continued U.S. aid in developing the Arrow anti-missile missile during a meeting in Israel on Wednesday with Gen. Hugh Shelton.

### Elderly man goes into hiding

An 83-year-old Palestinian from eastern Jerusalem went into hiding after learning police were seeking his arrest for failing to pay fines issued for illegal construction.

Ahmed Hamadan owes authorities more than \$60,000 for building another story onto his house without permits. Israel police acknowledged they were uncomfortable chasing after Hamadan and called on his family to bring him in.



## Daily News Bulletin

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in a worldwide beachhead. Us Aryans, the world over, haven't yet begun to flex our power or influence. You'll never know where we'll pop up from. We're represented in every strata of society, and our ranks are increasing ten-fold every day of every year."

The letter, dated July 4, was signed "Aryan and Proud."

"For some people, these grotesque murders and shootings are inspiring," Potok said. "They are seen as a great way of bringing new people into the revolutionary Aryan fold, and in fact it may be that some people are inspired to the point that they, too, pick up the gun."

In the wake of last week's shooting, Jewish officials have been exploring possible responses to protect against future anti-Semitic attacks.

At a New York news conference Tuesday morning, and later that day at a satellite conference for approximately 55 Jewish federations around the country, leaders from the United Jewish Communities and Anti-Defamation League urged Jewish institutions to review their security procedures — but not to go overboard.

"We need awareness, rather than armed bunkers or fortresses," said Abraham Foxman, national director of the ADL.

Foxman said he is troubled by the fact that some Jews around the country are discussing whether to wear skullcaps in public or let their children ride school buses bearing names of Jewish institutions.

Some concede that there may, in fact, be little that can be done to prevent an attack.

"When you're talking about terrorism, as we all know from experience with Israel, if you have a person or people who have an ideology they're devoted to and have the training and the wherewithal to carry it out, it's going to be virtually impossible to stop every attack," said Cooper of the Wiesenthal Center.

But some now argue that it may be time to give law enforcement greater authority to track hate groups and root out terrorists before they strike.

In a guest column published in *The New York Times* last week, Foxman argued that the Justice Department and the FBI are "so hamstrung" by fears of lawsuits from the American Civil Liberties Union and by complaints from conservative lawmakers about overstepping their bounds that "they can't act aggressively."

"This is too timid an approach given the current rhetoric of these groups and its ability to inflame their more unstable adherents," Foxman wrote.

"The Constitution provides for the civil liberties of citizens, but it is not a prescription for suicide; it should enable us to protect our civil liberties against those who have no respect for the nation or would destroy it."

In an interview, Foxman said he hopes that Furrow's "wake-up call" backfires and instead serves as a wake-up call for America to "examine hate and the ways and means within the Constitution to protect civil liberties so people can enjoy them."

"If you're dead, what good are" civil liberties? he asked.

Kenneth Stern, an American Jewish Committee specialist on anti-Semitism and extremism, said he believes what is missing in addressing the scourge of hate violence and its core causes is Congress' leadership.

"These (extremists) are people who are saying we're going to make America more American by killing minorities, and we still haven't had a national discussion and congressional hearings on this, even after the Oklahoma City bombing," Stern said.

It remains to be seen how lawmakers will address the issue when Congress returns from its recess next month.

President Clinton, for his part, has appealed to Congress to pass "common-sense" laws tightening gun control and expanding the federal hate crimes statute.

Meanwhile, the seemingly inexplicable spate of anti-Semitic attacks has continued. Just this week, a synagogue on Long Island in New York was damaged in an arson attack, while in Los Angeles, a swastika and the words "Jews die" were found spray-painted on a wall of a synagogue.

"I am starting to become concerned about how many more assaults the community can take without refocusing its priorities," Foxman said, suggesting there may be a need to fully reassess security at all Jewish institutions.

But he acknowledged a downside to any type of dramatic action along those lines.

"That may — God forbid — be a victory for our enemies," he said. □

(JTA staff writer Julie Wiener in New York contributed to this report.)

## JEWISH WORLD

### FOCUS ON ISSUES

## What to do with a blank check: Jewish teachers create wish lists

By Julie Wiener

### L.A. police release 911 tapes

Police released the tapes of the 911 emergency calls made after last week's shootings at the Jewish community center in Los Angeles.

"Please hurry. He's got a huge machine gun," cried the first woman to call 911. "I don't know how many people are dead, but there's hundreds of children. There's a summer camp here."

After releasing the tapes, L.A. Police Chief Bernard Parks called for "total gun control," including bans on assault weapons, "Saturday Night Special" handguns, gun shows as well as strict regulations on gun sales.

### Australian day school sued

An Australian family is suing a Jewish day school, claiming that its policies toward children whose mothers have undergone Reform conversions are discriminatory.

The Western Australia Equal Opportunities Tribunal is expected to rule in the next two months on whether the Carmel School discriminated when it decided in 1996 that Gregory Goldberg would be ineligible for financial aid, to lead services or to read from the Torah if he enrolled there.

### Barak supports Birthright plan

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak voiced support for a project to offer Jewish youth in the Diaspora free first-time, 10-day trips to Israel.

Barak will decide over the next month whether to uphold Benjamin Netanyahu's promise to contribute \$100 million during the next five years to the Birthright Israel initiative, according to the Israeli daily Ha'aretz.

A first group of 6,000 Jewish students is expected to come to Israel this winter as part of the program, half of whom will go on trips organized by Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life, the Jewish student organization announced Thursday.

### Bubis mourned in Germany

About 500 people mourned a longtime Jewish community leader at a service in a Frankfurt synagogue Wednesday.

Ignatz Bubis, a Holocaust survivor who had headed the Central Council of Jews in Germany, died the previous Friday, and was buried in Israel.

### Holocaust 'secret' being filmed

The true story of a Lithuanian Jew who passed as a Nazi SS officer and was put on trial after World War II is being made into a feature film.

"The Secret," an independent film written and directed by an Israeli filmmaker, will be filmed in Germany and in Eastern Europe next spring.

COLUMBUS, Ohio (JTA) — Money may not buy happiness. But most Jewish educators and administrators believe it can improve Jewish education.

At a conference of the Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education, held here last week, teachers and administrators, mostly from synagogue schools, indulged their fantasies about what they would do if they were given a blank check to spend on education.

Not surprisingly, most agreed that for starters, the prestige and salaries of educators need to rise.

"There's still a bit of the 'Oh, he or she is only a teacher' out there," Miriam Brunn Ruberg, education director of a synagogue in Tidewater, Va., said as she watched a stand-up comedy routine the second night of the conference.

Salaries and benefits packages — where they exist — in Jewish education vary widely, with administrators of day schools and supplemental schools generally at the top, and teachers — particularly nursery school teachers and part-timers — at the bottom.

At one CAJE session, educators spoke of salaries ranging from as low as \$13,000 to as high as \$95,000.

But mass raises were not the only suggestions.

Pausing from her dinner in the cafeteria, Lynn Hazan, a storyteller and teacher from Chicago, said synagogues need to focus more on building community and less on offering services.

She suggested a greater emphasis on "substantial experiences that support people, like retreats and Shabbatons," which are overnight Shabbat gatherings.

Social action projects and the arts — particularly music, dance, drama and storytelling — are also effective at engaging people and "bringing texts alive," Hazan said.

Across the table from Hazan, a suburban Philadelphia synagogue school director, Sharon Forman-Toll, said that if money were no object, she would not only double all her teachers' salaries, but send them all to the CAJE conference each year.

She also would subsidize trips to Israel and tuition for Jewish camps and day schools.

Porning over her CAJE catalog outside the Ohio State University student union, where various exhibitions and sessions were being held, 19-year-old Hebrew school teacher Beth Goodman suggested bringing more games and interactive projects into the classroom.

"You can't just sit and try to pound information into kids' heads," she said, noting that most of her students arrive already tired from a full day at public school.

Laurie Hoffman, who has directed the Center for Jewish Education Resources in Nyack, N.Y., for 10 years, said a blank check would enable her to "hire a big staff so I could concentrate on teacher training."

Enough textbooks, basic supplies and teacher development programs would top the wish list of Ariana Scott, a Hebrew school teacher and full-time college student in San Francisco.

Scott also wants something money cannot buy: family involvement.

"I would require parents to come with their children at least once a month," she said.

"Most parents only get involved right before their child's Bar or Bat Mitzvah."

A Detroit-area Hebrew school teacher, Joan Melnick, yearned for greater parental involvement and wondered just how much a blank check could accomplish.

"I always feel like I have the materials, but with a short amount of time I don't get enough done," Melnick said.

"I always hope when the kids go home, there's more of it coming from there, but I'm not sure there is." □

**NEWS ANALYSIS****Palestinian hard-liners suddenly find it easy to shake Arafat's hand***By Gil Sedan*

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israeli hard-liners opposed to trading land for peace with the Palestinians are not the only ones who suffered a major setback as a result of Israel's recent elections.

Palestinian radical groups based in Damascus are also fearing they may become sidelined if the hopes for peace that accompanied Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak's election begin to materialize.

The groups, collectively known as rejectionists because of their staunch opposition to the Oslo process and their long-standing call for the annihilation of Israel, are not only focusing on a possible Israeli-Palestinian peace treaty.

If there is progress on the Israeli-Syrian negotiating front, they may also find that Syrian President Hafez Assad will expel them from their bases in Damascus.

Given such sobering scenarios, it is not surprising that the groups are suddenly willing to meet with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, the man they have long accused of selling out Palestinian aspirations by embarking on the Oslo process.

Arafat met recently in Cairo with representatives of one of those groups, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

And on Sunday, he is scheduled to meet with the leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Nayef Hawatmeh.

Arafat hopes to forge a unified Palestinian front in advance of final-status talks with Israel.

The talks with the Popular Front focused on ways to bring the groups back into the mainstream Palestinian Liberation Organization.

The leader of the Popular Front, long-time Arafat rival George Habash, did not participate in the meeting, but he is expected to meet soon with Arafat.

By meeting with Arafat, the groups are hoping for "genuine participation in the decision-making" processes of the Palestinian leadership, Hawatmeh's deputy, Keis Abdul Karim, said after the meeting.

With this goal in mind, a spokesman for the Popular Front, Maher Al-Taher, said his group is calling for new elections for the PLO's top political bodies, the Executive Committee and the Central Council.

While they are now considering a return to the PLO, the rejectionists are still having trouble reconciling with Arafat's policies. During a meeting earlier this month in Damascus, representatives of the groups said they would still maintain distance from the self-rule government if Arafat continues to abide by his peace agreements with Israel.

But, given their ongoing contacts with Arafat, such pronouncements may soon become a rarity.

In an indication that the rejectionists may soon close ranks with Arafat, two of the groups recently became involved in Palestinian social projects.

The Democratic Front recently opened a computer school inside the Askar refugee camp near Nablus, and the Popular Front opened a medical clinic in Beit Sahour, near Bethlehem.

Officials from the rejectionist groups may well have realized

that they have a better chance of recruiting popular support if they provide the Palestinian public with social services than with arms to fight Arafat.

Indeed, another rejectionist group with widespread support — Hamas — made its dramatic debut into Palestinian life in the early 1980s by opening medical clinics, kindergartens and libraries.

The doctors running the Beit Sahour medical clinic switch easily from medical to political language. No, they stress, they do not reject peace; they only reject the Oslo accords.

"The Popular Front sees that the best solution is one in which both peoples can live together. This would be a just solution for everyone," said Dr. Majed Nasser.

But when and if Arafat meets with Nasser's leader — Habash — he is likely to call on the Popular Front to accept Oslo.

Arafat's adviser on internal affairs, Mamduh Noffel, broadly hinted recently that the rejectionists will have to admit the error of their ways if they hope to become part of the Palestinian mainstream.

Noffel should know, because he himself has renounced the rejectionist ideology. He planned one of the bloodiest terrorist attacks carried out against Israel — the massacre of 22 children at a school in Ma'alot on May 15, 1974. Now he has become one of the strongest advocates for a final peace agreement with Israel.

Noffel was at the time the military commander of Hawatmeh's Democratic Front, but he later joined forces with Arafat.

Hawatmeh was among the first Palestinian leaders to accept the existence of the Jewish state.

Shortly after the Ma'alot attack, he realized that armed struggle was not the only way to achieve Palestinian aspirations. He set as a goal the creation of a Palestinian state, side by side with Israel, and later developed contacts with leftist Israelis.

Although he continues to oppose Oslo, he has spoken favorably of coexistence with Israel and made a point of shaking the hand of President Ezer Weizman at the funeral of Jordan's King Hussein last February — a gesture that made him the target of much criticism. "I don't understand why they were angry at me," he said in a recent interview.

"Some of those who criticized me for shaking the hand of Weizman are shaking in these very days the hand of Arafat, who has not left one Israeli hand unshaken."

Meanwhile, the rejectionists, whose headquarters are located in Damascus, are coming under pressure from the Syrian regime.

Last month, Syrian Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam met with the rejectionist leaders and insisted that they review their policy toward Israel, hinting that they should refrain from military operations against the Jewish state.

The rejectionist groups "understood that Syria was heading toward a settlement" with Israel, said Noffel, "and during the negotiations toward a Syrian-Israeli agreement, they should seek a new position and new alliances."

Participants in the meeting denied that they had come under Syrian pressure.

"No one has asked us to give up armed resistance," Dr. Talal Naji, deputy secretary-general of the Popular Front, said recently.

"Certainly we shall continue the armed struggle even if there is peace between Syria and Israel."

But judging from the stances now heard in Damascus, Gaza, Askar and Beit Sahour, people like Naji are becoming voices in the wilderness. □