



# Daily News Bulletin

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## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Israel attacks Palestinian targets

Israeli combat helicopters attacked Palestinian targets in the Gaza Strip and West Bank. Earlier Monday, the Israeli army said it planned to take the offensive against Palestinian gunmen to prevent attacks on soldiers and Jewish settlers. The attack also took place after one Israeli security guard was killed and another seriously wounded when suspected Arab assailants shot them in eastern Jerusalem.

In another development, Palestinian police handed over the body of an Israeli found in an Arab area on the outskirts of Jerusalem. Israeli police said the body was bound and had multiple stab wounds. [Page 4]

### Barak: Stand together

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak called on legislators from across the political spectrum to "stand together to deal with the trials" facing the country.

Angry Israeli Arab legislators repeatedly interrupted the premier's speech at the Knesset's opening session. [Page 4]

### Gore denies embassy reports

The Wall Street Journal and the Detroit Free Press reported that Vice President Al Gore told a group of Arab American leaders on Sunday that he opposes moving the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The Gore campaign denied the reports, saying the media had no access to the closed-door meeting in Dearborn, Mich.

### IDF warns of Hezbollah attacks

The Israel Defense Force is warning of a possible resumption of terrorist attacks along the country's northern border. The commander of Israel's northern forces, Maj. Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi, said Hezbollah will likely try to open a second front. [Page 1]

### UJC called 7th largest charity

The umbrella group for North American Jewish federations is the seventh largest charitable organization in the United States, according to the Chronicle of Philanthropy.

In addition to the United Jewish Communities, 24 other Jewish charities appear in the newspaper's annual ranking of the 400 largest philanthropies. Last year, there were 27 on the list.

## NEWS ANALYSIS

### Analysts warn a wider war possible in inflamed Mideast

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM (JTA) — As the violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip enters its second month, there is a growing fear that it will escalate and embroil the entire region.

"It is absolutely mandatory that this conflict should not turn into an interreligious war," Avishai Braverman, president of Ben-Gurion University in Beersheba, said this week.

"If this turns into a religious war, we shall have an apocalypse."

Events of the past few days have provided ample fuel for those who believe that the violence will become a more wide-ranging religious conflict.

Millions in neighboring Muslim countries have staged massive demonstrations against Israel and the United States.

These protests have taken on a distinctly religious tone, with militants calling on the faithful to rescue the Al-Aksa mosque, the holy shrine to Islam on Jerusalem's Temple Mount.

The demonstrations in Egypt and Jordan could threaten the stability of those regimes, which continue to maintain peaceful — albeit strained — relations with the Jewish state.

This week, however, Israel's most problematic neighbor seemed to be Lebanon. Palestinian refugees living in Lebanon staged demonstrations at the border fence with Israel, reminding the world of a time bomb still ticking away within Lebanon.

Lebanon's president, Emile Lahoud, spoke at last week's Arab summit in Cairo of the need to allow 350,000 Palestinian refugees to return to the homes they abandoned during Israel's 1948 War of Independence.

According to observers, he did not issue the call because he is a champion of the refugees' rights, but because he worries that the time bomb will explode within his country instead of Israel.

Along with the refugee problem, Israeli officials are also concerned about what Hezbollah's next move may be.

This week, the Israel Defense Force warned of a possible resumption of terrorist attacks along the country's northern border.

The commander of Israel's northern forces, Maj. Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi, said Monday there is reason to believe Hezbollah will try to open a second front in addition to the ongoing clashes in the West Bank and Gaza.

This second front was also on the mind of some Palestinians. Demonstrators marched this week in the West Bank town of Ramallah chanting: "Hezbollah, hit Tel Aviv."

Israel has reportedly pressed Washington to add Lebanon to its list of countries supporting terrorism, a move that would considerably limit Lebanon's business contacts with the United States.

The Israeli move is being seen as part of an effort to force the Lebanese government to take steps that would prevent Hezbollah from heating up the border.

If this does happen, Syria could be dragged into the conflict. Israeli officials, including the deputy defense minister, Ephraim Sneh, warn that they will hold Syria responsible for any Hezbollah attacks.

Among those who caution that the current violence could embroil the wider region

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Clinton, Barak discuss unrest

President Clinton and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak discussed the ongoing violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the White House said. Sunday's call, which lasted 35 minutes, focused on "what concrete steps can be taken to reduce the level of violence," Clinton spokesman Jake Siewert said Monday.

### Jewish leaders show solidarity

The United Israel Appeal pledged \$1 million Monday to build a music center for the Gilo neighborhood of Jerusalem, which has been attacked in recent weeks with gunfire from a neighboring Palestinian town. The announcement came as the Jewish Agency for Israel's Board of Governors, meeting in Jerusalem this week, visited Gilo.

Approximately 1,000 people — including members of the Jewish Agency's Board of Governors and U.S. Jewish activists currently in Israel on solidarity missions — were expected to participate in a solidarity march Tuesday to the Western Wall. Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and opposition leader Ariel Sharon were slated to address the marchers.

### Palestinians: Limit U.S. role

Senior Palestinian officials say the United States' role as primary mediator in the Middle East peace process is over and there should be an international framework when negotiations resume.

### Israeli extradited to Canada

A 19-year-old Israeli soldier wanted in connection with a beating murder in a Toronto park was extradited to Canada, where he faces a charge of second-degree murder.

Daniel Weiz, whose father lives in Toronto, had been fighting the extradition for months. Under the terms of a new Israeli extradition law, Weiz may be tried abroad and, if convicted, would serve his sentence in Israel.

is professor Shimon Shamir, a former Israeli ambassador to both Egypt and Jordan who is one of the nation's leading experts on the Arab world.

Indeed, he believes that this is a specific goal of Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat, who would like nothing better than to see the broader Arab world come to the aid of the Palestinian cause.

Luckily for Israel, Egypt and Jordan are not playing along with Arafat.

Just as luckily, the untested new Syrian leader, Bashar Assad, does not yet seem strong enough to escalate the situation — although he may let Hezbollah do the job for him.

Shamir warned that Israel should not rely for long on the ability of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Jordan's King Abdullah to keep a lid on the overheated streets of Cairo and Amman.

"There is a limit to their powers," warned Shamir. He added that the worse the situation in the West Bank and Gaza becomes, the more Mubarak and Abdullah would have to bow to the demands of hard-liners within their own countries.

Some experts, however, do not believe the current violence will take on a regional dimension. Observers like Ephraim Inbar of the Begin-Sadat Center at Bar-Illan University said this week that while people should treat the situation with caution, they should not overreact.

"Israel should not be afraid of escalation," said Inbar, who added that if Israel responds to attacks from Palestinian gunmen, "There will be no escalation in the neighboring Arab countries, because they, too, understand that there are things" that demand a response.

And what would the Palestinians do if, indeed, the Arab world does not come rushing to their aid? This is a difficult question because Palestinian society is not monolithic.

For one, there are forces competing for the leadership. Along with Arafat, who enjoys the greatest popularity among his people, there is also Marwan Barghouti, leader of the armed militias, as well as the militant leaders of Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

Beyond their competition for the hearts and minds of the populace, there is also the fact that among the Palestinian people there are different responses to the ongoing violence.

"Many Palestinians believe there is not enough shooting," said Oded Granot, Arab affairs analyst for the Ma'ariv newspaper. "But on the other hand, there are just as many Palestinians who believe that Arafat should have handled the crisis differently, more wisely."

Ami Ayalon, the former head of the Shin Bet domestic security service, said in a television interview over the weekend that Arafat no longer controls the territories.

Ayalon is among those who believe that younger and more militant types — people like Barghouti and local Hamas officials — are solidifying their power bases.

His observation stood in sharp contrast to the repeated statements by Israeli policymakers that Arafat can order quiet in the territories within a matter of hours.

When all is said and done, it is too early to tell whether Arafat is still as powerful as some believe him to be, or whether the present violence — like the 1987-1993 intifada — is being orchestrated on the street. □

## Roadside bomb wounds two soldiers

JERUSALEM (JTA) — A roadside bomb along the Egyptian-Israeli border lightly hurt two Israeli soldiers.

Palestinian gunmen opened fire Monday on the patrol before the explosion took place, an army spokeswoman said. Elsewhere in the Gaza Strip, snipers hit a vehicle belonging to the security officer of a settlement in the Gush Katif bloc. The Israeli, who was patrolling the settlement's greenhouses, was not harmed and returned fire.

In another development, an Islamic extremist group claimed responsibility for Sunday's bombing attack against a bus carrying Israeli schoolchildren in the Gaza Strip. No one was hurt in the blast. In a statement received by the French news agency in Beirut, the "Forces of Omar al-Muktar" also claimed responsibility for a similar bombing attack 10 days ago. □



## Daily News Bulletin

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## JEWISH WORLD

### Congress protests shul search

Members of the U.S. Congress sent two letters to Russian President Vladimir Putin expressing concern about the Oct. 19 search of the Moscow Choral Synagogue by Interior Ministry officials.

Last Friday's Senate and House letters called the search "aggressive and unlawful" and urged Putin to take immediate action to uphold the rights and safety of the Jewish community.

### Israel: It's safe to visit

Israeli officials are trying to convince U.S. Jews that Israel is still a safe place for tourists, despite the ongoing violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In a conference call with American Jewish media Monday, Israeli officials conceded that the tourism industry had suffered from mass cancellations and subsequent layoffs because of a travel warning issued by the U.S. State Department.

But the officials assured reporters that "life goes on" as normal for Israelis, and the country remains safe for travel.

### Canadian Jews on Israel mission

An estimated 100 Canadian Jews representing leading Jewish organizations and synagogues are participating in a three-day international unity mission in Israel.

Participants include leaders of the Canadian Jewish Congress, B'nai Brith Canada and the Canada-Israel Committee.

Communal officials say it is the first of several unity missions to Israel planned during the coming months.

### French TV airing Barbie trial

French television launched a monthlong series of daily broadcasts from the 1987 trial of the Nazi official known as the "Butcher of Lyon."

The trial, in which Klaus Barbie was jailed for life for sending thousands of French Jews and Resistance fighters to the death camps, was the first French trial by jury to be filmed.

The Gestapo police chief in Lyon during the war, Barbie died in prison in 1991.

### Germans protest neo-Nazis

Some 25,000 people demonstrated in Germany against the recent wave of neo-Nazi violence across the country. The head of Germany's Jewish community said at Saturday's demonstration in Dusseldorf that German citizens must not remain silent when neo-Nazis strike. "When ranting skinheads can claim they are carrying out the will of the silent majority, then the silent majority is not without blame," Paul Spiegel said.

## What did the pope know and when did he know it?

By Peter Ephross

NEW YORK (JTA) — After 11 months of work investigating the Vatican's role during the Holocaust, a panel of scholars is pressing the Holy See to open up more archives.

The call comes during a report issued last week by the panel, made up of three Jews and three Catholics, that raises 47 questions about the papacy's wartime record — but offers little new evidence about several disputed topics, including the behavior of the wartime pope, Pius XII.

The report does not leave much hope that questions about how much Pius did to combat the Holocaust will be answered soon.

"A scrutiny of these volumes of Vatican documents does not put to rest significant questions about the role of the Vatican during the Holocaust," the panel wrote in its introduction to the report, available on the Web at [www.bnaibrith.org](http://www.bnaibrith.org).

"The bottom line is that in order to carry out the debate" of the Vatican's wartime role "to a more mature level, the Vatican should begin to make available to reputable scholars all the documentary evidence that it has at its disposal," said Michael Marrus, a Holocaust scholar and one of the Jewish members of the panel.

The issue of Pius XII's wartime actions is the most pressing one addressed by the panel, which scoured 11 published volumes of archival material edited between 1965 and 1981.

The Vatican and the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultation established the panel last year.

Among the questions raised in the report concerning Pius XII:

- Are there documents relating to discussions in 1938 involving Pius, then known as Vatican Secretary of State Eugenio Pacelli, about the Vatican's reaction to Kristallnacht?

- Is there confirmation of a news story that the pope intervened with the leader of Vichy France, Marshal Petain, to stop the deportation of French Jews?

- What discussion was there in the Vatican regarding the pope's response to several appeals from the archbishop of Berlin calling on Pius to publicly call for a halt to the deportations of Berlin's Jews?

The Vatican says plans for Pius XII's beatification — the final step before sainthood — are under way, even though some charge that he was an anti-Semite who failed to help Jews during the Holocaust.

Several of the questions in the report relate to Pius XII's actions before and during the Holocaust. But that issue is only one of many raised in the report.

Others include why a project financially supported by U.S. Jews to obtain Brazilian visas for Catholics of Jewish origin failed; and how did the Vatican react as early as 1942 to the information it knew about the mass murder of Jews in extermination camps?

In Rome last week, the panel met with several Vatican officials, but did not meet with the pope or with officials from the Vatican secretary of state, despite requests to do so.

Vatican officials appear to be debating whether they want to open the archives or keep the records sealed.

One source close to the process told JTA that while it is unlikely that the Vatican will open all of the archives, it might agree to furnish additional documents referred to in the published volumes.

Vatican documents are generally sealed for 100 years, but at least one exception to this rule was made in the last century, the report noted.

The chairman of IJCIC, as the Jewish interfaith commission involved in the effort is known, said the ongoing process is part of a larger endeavor.

"The archives are being opened everywhere. The Swiss are accounting for gold, the Dutch are returning art that was confiscated from Jews who were sent to camps. It's a reckoning, a need for the world to understand what happened during this dreadful period of history," said Seymour Reich. □

## Barak and Sharon defend their positions in Knesset

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Appeals for national unity continue to be sounded here, but judging from the opening session of the Knesset, Israeli leaders are not prepared to take the steps required to achieve it.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak appeared before the Knesset on Monday having only a minority of legislators behind him.

Monday's session came amid continued unrest, which claimed the lives of two Israelis in the Jerusalem area.

But Barak was in no imminent danger of facing a vote of no confidence in his government when the legislators returned from a three-month recess.

Barak, whose government lost its parliamentary majority when three parties walked out during the summer to protest July's Camp David summit, got some breathing space from the fervently Orthodox Shas Party, which promised him a "safety net" as long as the violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip continues.

But Shas members, who hold 17 seats in the 120-member Knesset, said they would only back Barak if he abandons his "secular revolution" reform program and keeps the secular Meretz and Shinui parties out of his government.

While Barak called on Israelis to stand "shoulder to shoulder," notably absent from his address Monday was any overt reference to a unity government.

This was taken as a sign of the deadlock in the premier's efforts to forge such a government with opposition leader Ariel Sharon.

The politically weakened Barak staunchly defended his election pledge to "turn over every stone" in pursuit of peace, which he said culminated in the Camp David summit.

But at the same time, the premier said there were limits to that pursuit.

"Over the past 16 months, and especially at Camp David, we were prepared to discuss far-reaching ideas raised by the president of the U.S., on condition the other side would consider it a basis for discussion.

"We understood peace, if achieved, would carry a painful and heartbreaking price, but we never agreed to peace at any price, a peace of capitulation or surrender to the demands of the other side," Barak said.

"The Palestinians are the ones who rejected our extended hand."

Barak went on to say that Israel remains committed to the understandings brokered by President Clinton to try to reach a cease-fire during a summit at Sharm el-Sheik, Egypt, in mid-October.

If the Palestinians implement the understandings, and if Clinton summons the sides to Washington, "our security and political responsibility obliges us to go," Barak told legislators.

Barak's acting foreign minister, Shlomo Ben-Ami, was slated to visit Washington later this week, when he was expected to meet with U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to discuss the ongoing violence that has all but killed the peace process.

The hawkish Sharon has demanded that Barak disavow the

proposals discussed at Camp David as a condition for creating an emergency unity government.

During his address to the Knesset, Sharon devoted almost all of his remarks to the need for a unity government, but not one based on Barak's policies.

"If you had not chosen the path you did, you would not have led us into this trap," Sharon said.

"I support an emergency national unity government. But I am not ready to support the division of Jerusalem, giving up the Jordan Valley and the return of [Palestinian] refugees to Israel.

"We must unite around a realistic plan that can really restore quiet, bring security to the people of Israel, and down the line, the peace we all want," he said.

Sharon said the urgency of the moment requires immediate action, and that the opposition is ready to join the government on one condition: that the sides agree what Israel's response would be to a unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state.

Sharon was heckled by Hadash legislator Tamar Gozansky, who shouted "you don't want unity, you want a veto" over Barak's policies.

Meanwhile, a security guard was killed and another one seriously wounded when they were shot at close range inside a branch of the National Insurance Institute in eastern Jerusalem.

In a separate incident Monday, Palestinian police handed over the body of an Israeli found in an Arab area on the outskirts of Jerusalem.

Israeli police said Monday the body was bound and had multiple stab wounds.

They said the victim, who was in his 30s, was believed to be a resident of Jerusalem's Gilo neighborhood.

Israeli security officials have warned Israeli Jews to stay away from the Palestinian self-rule areas.

The Knesset reopened as the violence in the West Bank and Gaza entered its second month with a fury that shows no signs of abating.

During his address, the prime minister vowed to "do everything to defend our citizens and soldiers, and hurt those who want us dead."

Israeli Arab legislators repeatedly interrupted the premier's speech, angry that Knesset Speaker Avraham Burg had turned down their request to have the session begin with a minute of silence for 13 Arab Israelis killed by police in recent rioting.

One Shas legislator asked why there were Arabs serving in the Israeli Parliament at all.

Burg opened the Knesset session by reading a statement expressing condolences for all who had lost their lives in the violence.

For his part, Barak condemned all violence by Jews against Arabs and Arabs against Jews.

His speech came one day after Arafat proclaimed that the "blessed" intifada, or Palestinian uprising, would continue until a "Palestinian child plants a Palestinian flag" on Jerusalem.

Barak warned the Palestinian leader on Monday that the window of opportunity for peace is closing and that he will get nowhere with violence.

"Negotiations are conducted around the table," said the premier.

"Not in the streets. Not with gunfire and rocks. There will be no prize for violence." □