



# Daily News Bulletin

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83rd Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Two killed in Jerusalem car bomb

Two people were killed after a car bomb exploded on a small side street near a crowded outdoor Jerusalem market. Nine people were lightly injured. In a statement faxed to the Reuters news agency, Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for the attack.

Police identified Hanan Levy, 32, and Ayelet Hashahar-Levy, 24, as the two victims. They were not related.

Hashahar-Levy was the daughter of Yitzhak Levy, leader of the National Religious Party.

She had recently moved to Jerusalem and was bringing her belongings to a house in the area when the bomb went off, police said. [Page 3]

### AIPAC site suffers hack attack

A Pakistani hacker struck the Web site of the leading pro-Israel lobbying group in the United States. The hacker, who reportedly has defaced more than 40 Web sites, hacked into the American Israel Public Affairs Committee's site Wednesday to "protest against the atrocities in Palestine by the barbarian Israeli soldiers and their constant support by the U.S. government."

AIPAC is contacting 700 individuals to alert them that some of their personal information, including credit card information, could have been compromised. The FBI is investigating the incident.

### Peres, Arafat agree on truce

Israel and the Palestinians agreed on steps to end the violence in the territories in a late-night meeting in the Gaza Strip between Israeli Cabinet member Shimon Peres and Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat.

Israel later pulled back tanks and heavy armored vehicles stationed around Palestinian-ruled cities, and the Palestinians restrained rock-throwers. [Page 3]

### Non-Jews OK Lieberman God-talk

Twice as many non-Jews as Jews approve of Sen. Joseph Lieberman's campaign references to God and scripture, according to a new survey by the Center for Jewish Community Studies.

Conducted in September, the study of U.S. residents also found that while 84 percent of Jews are happy Lieberman was nominated for the vice presidency, 55 percent are happy that he is a religious Jew.

## UJC is 7th largest U.S. charity; other Jewish groups fall behind

By Julie Wiener

NEW YORK (JTA) — The umbrella organization for North American Jewish federations is now the seventh largest charitable organization in the United States, according to the Chronicle of Philanthropy.

This marks the first time in recent years that a Jewish organization has ranked in the top 20 of the Chronicle's annual listing of the 400 not-for-profit organizations with the largest revenues from individual contributors.

And, had the tabulation been done differently — to include all dollars raised by federations, instead of only those allocated to overseas needs — the ranking would have been considerably higher, say officials of the umbrella group, known as the United Jewish Communities.

According to the Chronicle, the UJC raised \$524.3 million in 1999, but UJC officials say the federation system actually raised close to \$2 billion.

The United Jewish Appeal, the largest of the three organizations that merged to form the UJC last year, regularly appeared on the Chronicle's top 10 list until 1996, when it ranked No. 6.

However, it was later removed from the list when the publication adopted a now-abandoned policy of excluding umbrella organizations, such as the UJA and United Way, that receive their money from other organizations on the list.

Gail Hyman, the UJC's vice president of marketing and public affairs, said she is pleased the charity has been recognized in this year's listing, noting that "we are among the leading and best fund-raising organizations nationally."

But UJC's high ranking comes as the overall number of Jewish organizations on the top-400 list has dropped from 27 to 25.

In addition most Jewish groups, particularly federations, slipped in rank since last year, even if their overall revenues increased. This indicates that other philanthropies — which, according to the article, are enjoying average increases of 13 percent this year — are growing more rapidly than Jewish ones.

Among the few Jewish groups to increase in rank this year are some undergoing major endowment campaigns, like the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit; the Conservative movement's Jewish Theological Seminary, which is in the middle of a capital campaign; and PEF Israel Endowment Funds, a group that funnels donor-designated gifts to a variety of Israeli organizations.

Observers of Jewish philanthropic trends say the overall drop is not surprising, given that, as American Jews assimilate, they are contributing more money to secular causes and less to Jewish organizations.

"I suspect the greatest growth is into non-Jewish giving by Jews," said Bruce Arbit, co-managing director of A.B. Data, a firm that assists many Jewish organizations in direct marketing campaigns.

American Jews, said Arbit, "feel less connectedness to the Jewish people" than they used to. In addition, intermarried households — which are growing in number — tend to give less to Jewish organizations than other Jewish families, said Arbit.

David Mersky, a senior lecturer in Jewish philanthropy at Brandeis University's Hornstein Program in Jewish Communal Service, said the general decline in ranking for Jewish groups results from the relatively weak campaigns of Jewish federations.

Federation campaigns, in which donors contribute to a general pool, "have not kept pace with the rate of increase of other philanthropies," said Mersky.

Federation annual campaigns increased 4 percent on average in 1999. But more than

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Israelis want Hezbollah attacked

Residents of Israel's northern border called on the Israel Defense Force to remove the threat of Hezbollah attacks following reports that the Shi'ite group deployed Katyusha rockets throughout southern Lebanon.

Israeli security forces have warned that the northern border could heat up again in the coming days.

### Army plans new bypass road

The Israeli army informed the Gush Etzion bloc of settlements that it intends to begin paving a road to bypass the tunnel road connecting the area to southern Jerusalem, Israel Radio reported.

The tunnel road, itself a bypass road built after the signing of earlier Israeli-Palestinian accords, has recently been the target of frequent shooting attacks by Palestinians.

### Sharon blasts lynching response

Israeli opposition leader Ariel Sharon said the Israel Defense Force should have sent in helicopters to try to rescue two soldiers before they were lynched by a Palestinian mob in Ramallah last month.

Cabinet minister Amnon Lipkin-Shahak dismissed Sharon's criticism.

Shahak said it was impossible at the time of the lynching for the government and army to know what was going on.

### Artifacts display opens

An archeological park displaying artifacts from the First and Second Temple periods was inaugurated in the heart of Jerusalem's fervently Orthodox Geula neighborhood.

In a rare union, the event brought together fervently Orthodox leaders and Antiquities Authority officials, who are frequently at odds with each other over excavations.



## Daily News Bulletin

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half of total federation giving was not to the annual campaign, but to endowments.

Mersky said endowments and other campaigns that allow designated giving, in which donors can choose exactly where their money goes, do better — which may explain the success of PEF.

However, philanthropy experts caution against reading too much into fluctuations that occur from year to year.

"Fund raising, organization by organization, is very cyclical," said Mersky of Brandeis.

He pointed out that a major campaign one year may be followed by a drop the following year, and that in any given year, a one-time major gift like a bequest can "make all the difference in the world" and "rocket you forward."

The rankings — in which 12 federations and communal funds appear, compared to 15 last year — are also consistent with trends away from federation giving and toward more specialized causes, like specific institutions and so-called friends of Israeli organizations.

Ironically, one of the Jewish groups enjoying the most dramatic increase in ranking is one that does not do any fund raising at all.

"We never asked anybody for a dime. We have no fund-raising dinners. It's just word of mouth," said B. Harrison Frankel, president of PEF Israel Endowment Funds. It ranked 279 this year, up from 351 last year.

The organization channels funds to more than 1,000 non-political organizations in Israel — ranging from the Magen David Adom relief agency to the Israel Women's Network — and raised \$38.5 million in 1999, up from \$12 million in 1991.

Run almost entirely by volunteers, PEF allows donors to earmark their contributions.

After the UJC, the New York, Chicago and Detroit federations were the largest Jewish organizations on the list.

With revenues of \$156.9 million, New York's federation ranked 53 (down from 44 last year) and its Jewish Communal Fund — which allows donors to create their own charitable foundations — ranked 61.

With \$66.9 million, Hadassah: The Women's Zionist Organization of America was the largest non-federation Jewish organization appearing on the list. It ranked 170, down from last year's 133.

Six Jewish universities — including three American "friends of" Israeli institutions — also made the list. □

## 10 largest Jewish philanthropies

PHILANTHROPY	2000 Rank	1999 Rank	Private Support (millions)
United Jewish Communities	7	—	\$524.3*
UJA-Federation of Greater New York	53	44	\$156.9
Jewish Communal Fund (New York)	61	55	\$145.7
Jewish Federation/Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago	110	91	\$97.3
United Jewish Foundation/Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit	151	155	\$77.1
Hadassah: The Women's Zionist Organization of America	170	133	\$66.9
Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco and area	175	138	\$65.3
Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia	188	242	\$62.3
The Associated: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore	223	219	\$52.2
Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles	231	236	\$50.1

Source: *Chronicle of Philanthropy*

\*UJC says this sum does not include all of the money raised by local federations.

## JEWISH WORLD

### 'Outed' firms give to slave fund

More firms have pledged contributions to a fund set up by German companies to compensate survivors of Nazi slave and forced labor after nonparticipants were "outed" by a television program.

Fund spokesman Wolfgang Gibowski said the new sums ran into tens of millions of dollars, adding to the \$1.4 billion raised from German industry.

In a related development, a German foundation created to compensate victims of Nazi slave labor is hoping that pending class-action lawsuits will be lifted this year to allow payments to begin.

Dieter Kastrup, chairman of the committee running the fund, said Thursday he is hopeful that a key hearing before a U.S. court now scheduled for Jan. 24 could be held before Christmas.

### Insurance records posted on Web

Washington state's insurance commissioner posted thousands of new policyholder records from the Holocaust era on the Internet to help survivors and their heirs file claims on policies that European insurers refused to pay after World War II.

Commissioner Deborah Senn said the posting at [www.insurance.wa.gov](http://www.insurance.wa.gov) would supplement lists already posted by her office and other groups, including the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims.

Earlier this year, her office posted Holocaust-era records from Poland and the Netherlands on its Web site.

### Reform Jews gather in Moscow

Reform Jewish leaders from around the world gathered in Moscow this week to celebrate 10 years of Reform activity in the former Soviet Union.

The movement boasts a presence in nearly 90 communities there.

### DAIA marks 65th anniversary

Argentine President Fernando de la Rúa was among the government officials and Jewish leaders to attend a ceremony marking the 65th birthday of DAIA, the political umbrella organization of Argentine Jewry.

The Delegación de Asociaciones Israelitas Argentinas was founded in 1935 by 28 organizations as a response to growing anti-Semitism.

### Photo exhibit eyes Jewish life

A photo exhibition depicting day-to-day Jewish life in Central and Eastern Europe opened in Prague.

Photographer Edward Serotta, who is also a JTA correspondent, based his "Newly Born World" exhibition on visits he made since 1985 to Jewish communities in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Romania.

## Central Jerusalem bombing pre-empts truce announcement

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — A deadly bomb blast near a market here has shattered what was supposed to have been a moment of truce.

Israelis had been put on heightened alert to the possibility of a terror attack, and the dire warnings were borne out Thursday, when a bomb blast killed two people and lightly wounded nine others near the Mahane Yehuda open-air market in central Jerusalem.

Police identified the dead as Hanan Levy, 32, and Ayelet Hashahar-Levy, 24. The two were not related.

Hashahar-Levy was the daughter of Yitzhak Levy, leader of the National Religious Party. She had recently moved to Jerusalem and was dropping her belongings off at a house in the area when the bomb went off, police said.

One witness said he tried to pull her from the flames.

"I saw her on the ground and her legs had been blown off," said Ya'acov Hasson, a Magen David Adom volunteer. "I hoped she was alive, but she was dead."

In a statement faxed to the Reuters news agency, Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for the blast, which the group said was "not a suicide operation."

The perpetrators were not among the dead, and police immediately closed off the streets leading to the downtown area to search for the assailants and other bombs.

The bombing occurred just as Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat were expected to issue simultaneous statements announcing an agreement reached by the two sides to end the violence, which began in late September.

Instead, Barak issued a statement condemning the attack.

He also said the Palestinian Authority was responsible for the bombing because it had recently freed Islamic militants from jail.

The Palestinian Authority must "return to jail all the prisoners it released over the last weeks and fight terror again," the statement said. Barak said Israel will continue to combat terrorism and that its spirit would not be broken by the attack. When asked for his reaction to the bombing, Arafat told reporters, "We are against it completely."

The explosion occurred shortly before 3 p.m. in a small alley close to the market.

On Jaffa Street, near the scene of the attack, right-wing demonstrators later gathered and called for revenge. They chanted, "Death to Arabs."

Israel's police commissioner, Yehuda Wilk, said it is probable that a heightened security presence in the area forced the terrorists to park their car on a side street, which greatly reduced the number of casualties.

The agreement that Barak and Arafat were going to announce in simultaneous statements had been worked out in a late-night meeting Wednesday in the Gaza Strip between Arafat and Cabinet minister Shimon Peres, who said it included a list of steps both sides agreed to take simultaneously to reduce the violence.

As a result of the agreement, Israel postponed plans to retaliate for the deaths of three soldiers in clashes with Palestinian gunmen earlier Wednesday.

The announcements were to have been made hours before the bombing, but it was delayed by a Palestinian demand that all Israeli tanks be withdrawn from self-rule cities first as a sign of good faith.

Earlier Thursday, however, Arafat issued a statement calling for an end to violence, while expressing support for peaceful demonstrations.

Israel later pulled back tanks and heavy armored vehicles stationed around Palestinian-ruled cities, and the Palestinians restrained rock-throwers.

But on the ground, the tensions continued.

Two Palestinians were killed Thursday and at least 80 were injured during clashes in the West Bank, according to local hospital officials.

Other reports said Palestinian police were not intervening to disperse the rioting, and one report said a Palestinian officer had fired on Israeli troops in the Gaza Strip.

Meanwhile, Hamas militants rejected the agreement and said they would step up their efforts against Israel. □

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES

## Is the media biased against Israel? Jews cite fight for public opinion

By Michael J. Jordan

NEW YORK (JTA) — Is the media biased against Israel? It's a question many Jews, consumed with recent events in the Middle East, are asking.

While not everyone is quick to assume bias, there is growing concern that the portrayal of the conflict — which some say has become as much a battle for world opinion as a battle on the ground — is giving Israel a raw deal.

Media watchdogs cite a New York Times report last week as the latest evidence that readers are not getting the whole story. The report from Ramallah said that Israel is pressing the Palestinian leadership to clamp down on its official media, saying it incites crowds to violent confrontation with Israeli security forces.

The report said Israel cited as one "egregious example" a televised sermon that defended last month's murder of two Israeli soldiers by a Palestinian mob in that West Bank city.

"Whether Likud or Labor, Jews are Jews," the newspaper report quoted Sheik Ahmad Abu Halabaya saying in a live broadcast from a Gaza City mosque the day after the killings. The Boston-based Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America quickly lambasted the Times report as a "cover-up."

What it did not include, said CAMERA, were the other remarks about Jews Halabaya made in that same Oct. 13 broadcast, according to the translation from Arabic by the Middle East Media and Research Institute.

"They are the terrorists. They are the ones who must be butchered and killed, as Allah the almighty said: 'Fight them; Allah will torture them at your hands, and will humiliate them. . . ' Have no mercy on the Jews no matter where they are, in any country. Fight them, wherever you are. Wherever you meet them, kill them. Wherever you are, kill those Jews and those Americans who are like them — and those who stand by them. . . "

Why does a reporter quote this, but not that?

"I can't read anyone's heart; I can't impugn their motives," said Andrea Levin, CAMERA's executive director. "All I can do is read their work. And this was unconscionable, a gross distortion. To say this was an 'egregious' example, and then to quote a benign line, is to make the Israeli claims look absurd."

The impact of such reportage may pale in comparison with the searing images of 12-year-old Mohammad al-Darrah being shot and killed in his father's arms, which many believe instantly turned the world against Israel. But it illustrates the uphill struggle Israel faces in presenting its side of the conflict that has wracked the region for more than a month.

It also shows how, due to the proliferation and saturation of 24-hour news networks and Web sites — facilitated by a conflict occurring mostly in a democratic country with largely unfettered freedom of movement for media — pictures, and to a lesser extent, words, are shaping world opinion more than bullets.

"What we see now is not a war in a traditional sense, but a P.R. war and a war for public opinion," said Arye Mekel, director of the Israeli Foreign Ministry's media center and a member of the government's new task force for "hasbarah."

Hasbarah is loosely translated from Hebrew to mean explana-

tion, but is more commonly interpreted as propaganda.

Many in the American Jewish community, like Levin, believe the deck is stacked against Israel. Noting the media's tendency to pull for the "underdog," they believe many major media outlets — like CNN and National Public Radio — harbor an anti-Israel bias that unfairly portrays Israel as aggressor, Palestinians as victims.

These critics find no comfort in the fact Arab American groups see it precisely the other way around: that the U.S. media is decidedly anti-Palestinian.

Arab American groups instead praise the work of other media sources, such as the BBC and Britain's ITN News — which, not so coincidentally, Jewish watchdogs have singled out as particularly anti-Israel in their coverage. But when it comes to accusations of bias, distinctions need to be drawn, say Jewish observers, between print and electronic media, between news and commentary, even between the media in America and Europe — where anti-Israel bias is perceived to be much stronger.

When weighing these factors, overall the American media can be viewed as doing a "fair" job, both in terms of fairness and performance, said Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League.

In a survey of editorials of the nation's largest circulation dailies from Sept. 30 to Oct. 15, the ADL found "overwhelming support and sympathy for Israel's position," including in The New York Times.

As for journalists on the ground, faulty reporting may be guided by "sensationalism, a lack of perspective or ignorance," said Foxman, but not bias. "When we accuse CNN or anyone else of bias, we are saying that they are coming together to decide or conspire to slant a story," said Foxman.

"That's a very, very serious charge. It's the opposite charge of Jews controlling the media or Hollywood. And that's irresponsible," he said.

Nevertheless, Foxman met with CNN officials last week to express some concerns — why, for example, CNN did not report Halabaya's fiery sermon.

Foxman said CNN officials "said they take seriously charges of bias or that they have made mistakes, but will not take seriously claims that they are Nazis, or an adjunct to the Palestinian Authority" — as some have accused them of being.

Levin and others are closely monitoring and parsing the words that are used, such as descriptions of Palestinians on the streets as "protesters" versus "rioters," or reports that contrast "rampaging" Jewish settlers with "demonstrating" Palestinian youths.

Or whether the Temple Mount is mentioned only as a Muslim holy site and not as Judaism's holiest site.

On the Israeli end, its hasbarah task force is steadily trying to make up lost ground. Ironically, a boon to their efforts was the videotaped footage of the two Israeli soldiers killed in Ramallah.

In response to charges that Israeli security forces are using excessive force in street confrontations, the Israelis have begun videotaping the clashes from their perspective and reaching out to Western media.

Their efforts were helped by an Oct. 23 USA Today report. The correspondent, traveling inside an Israeli tank, reported seeing Palestinian ambulances unload buckets of rocks and crates of empty bottles — presumably for Molotov cocktails — and that the Israelis held their fire even after the ambulance driver fired twice at the tank. □