



# Daily News Bulletin

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## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Washington meetings planned

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak is expected to meet with President Clinton in Washington next Sunday to discuss ways to revive the Middle East peace process.

Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat is expected to meet with Clinton on Thursday.

### 150,000 mark Rabin slaying

An estimated 150,000 people took part in a memorial rally in Tel Aviv to mark the fifth anniversary of the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin by a right-wing student.

With the violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip hanging over the event, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak made a plea for peace at the rally, held in the square where Rabin was gunned down on Nov. 5, 1995.

Barak urged Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat not to let extremists lead Israelis and Palestinians "on a path of pain and suffering."

President Clinton called Rabin's widow to wish her well on the fifth anniversary of her husband's assassination, a White House spokesman said.

Leah Rabin, who is fighting lung cancer, was undergoing tests in a Tel Aviv hospital when Clinton called Saturday.

The president "called because she's an old friend and isn't feeling well, and he wanted to touch base with her," the spokesman said. Rabin was unable to attend the rally in her husband's honor.

### Two Palestinians die in unrest

Two Palestinians were shot dead during clashes with Israeli troops in the Gaza Strip.

At least 10 Palestinians were wounded in these clashes Sunday, and seven were hurt in the West Bank outside Bethlehem.

### Doctor group blames Israel

A group of U.S. physicians accused the Israeli military of using excessive force during clashes with Palestinians. In a report published last Friday, the Boston-based Physicians for Human Rights also dismissed some Palestinian claims against Israel.

The group based its finding on investigations group members made during a trip last month to Israel, the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

## ELECTIONS 2000

### Jerusalem becomes battleground in outreach effort to Jewish voters

By Sharon Samber

WASHINGTON (JTA) — In an all-out effort to court Jewish voters in the remaining days of the presidential campaign, Jerusalem has become the latest battleground.

Both Democrats and Republicans are accusing the opposing candidate of changing his position on where the U.S. Embassy in Israel should sit.

Both Vice President Al Gore and Texas Gov. George W. Bush have said they favor moving the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, and that their positions have not changed.

A law mandating such a move was enacted by Congress in 1995, but never implemented because of the Clinton administration's concern that it would jeopardize the peace process.

Now with Israel and the Palestinians steeped in a violent conflict that apparently has no end in sight, the chances that either a Gore or Bush administration would immediately move the embassy seems unlikely.

Still, the degree to which the issue has sparked partisan faxes, e-mails and discussion illustrates the determination with which the campaigns — and their Jewish supporters — are working to convince Jewish voters to choose their man.

"The Jewish vote in certain states can make or break this presidential election," said David Harris, deputy executive director of the National Jewish Democratic Council.

"In a tight race, everything counts," agreed Matt Brooks, executive director of the Republican Jewish Coalition.

It might be the only thing that Jewish Democrats and Republicans agree on these days.

The outreach to Jewish voters includes positive newspaper ads and op-eds about their candidates and campaign events geared to Jewish constituencies.

The Gore campaign, for instance, enlisted political humorist Al Franken and Joseph Lieberman's stepson, Ethan Tucker, to conduct a conference call last week to rally Jewish student leaders on college campuses across the country.

The Gore campaign also recently established Jewish leadership councils in 12 key states.

The councils are writing letters to the editor, working with leaders in the neighborhoods and mobilizing supporters.

For its part, the NJDC has mailed approximately 250,000 voter guides to Jewish households in key states, such as Florida, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Ohio and New York.

The guides, covering House, Senate and the presidential races, detail candidates' positions on issues of importance to the Jewish community, such as separation of church and state, reproductive freedom and support for Israel.

While the Gore campaign appears to be actively working for Jewish votes, the Bush campaign says it will not focus on any particular ethnic or interest group in the final days of the race.

Bush spokesman Ray Sullivan said he thinks the Jewish vote is important, but his candidate's message is now aimed at all voters.

"We are focused on the widest possible audience in key states," Sullivan said.

But Brooks of the RJC said that state Republican parties are doing special outreach

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Film excludes historic handshake

Images of the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin with Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat — including their historic handshake when the first Oslo accord was signed on the White House lawn in September 1993 — were omitted from a biographical film screened at a memorial gathering organized by the Labor Party last Friday.

Sources in the party said there was no directive from above to edit out the footage.

But it was understood that in light of the ongoing violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, it was preferable not to have prominent images of the Palestinian leader in the film, according to the Israeli daily *Ma'ariv*.

### Army considers Gaza evacuation

Israel's army said it is considering plans to evacuate Jewish settlers from the Gaza Strip by sea or air if violence makes it necessary.

The army says there are about 7,000 settlers living in Gaza, which has a population of more than 1 million Palestinians.

### Cairo street to honor slain boy

Cairo authorities plan to rename the street on which the Israeli Embassy is located to Mohammed al-Darrah Street, in memory of the 12-year-old boy killed in Israeli-Palestinian crossfire in the Gaza Strip last month, an Egyptian newspaper reported.

### Arab legislator faces probe

Israel's attorney general plans to investigate whether an Israeli Arab legislator was guilty of incitement when he recently called on his community to aid the Palestinian unrest.

Mohammed Barakah of the Hadash Party said he was referring to nonviolent demonstrations and that the investigation is an attempt to curb freedom of expression.

to Jewish communities, including direct mail and targeted phone calling aimed at ensuring that Jewish Republicans come out to vote.

Brooks also said that his group sent out op-ed pieces to Jewish newspapers last week highlighting the candidates' differing positions on various issues.

And he hopes to get Bush foreign policy advisor George Shultz to speak at an event in Florida.

Along with the positive efforts to bolster each candidate comes the negative efforts to tear the other candidate down.

In addition to targeting Bush, the Gore campaign is contending with the possibility that liberal Jewish voters will support Green Party candidate Ralph Nader.

Pursuing the message they are sending to many constituencies that a Nader vote could inadvertently become a vote for Bush, Gore supporters are pointing out to Jewish groups Nader's recent comments that Israel should be held responsible for the recent violence in the Middle East.

The flap over Jerusalem and the U.S. Embassy began two weeks ago.

Rumors that Bush had changed his position emanated from a former Republican lawmaker who was using the issue to encourage Arab Americans to support the Texas governor.

Former U.S. Rep. Paul Findley (R-Ill.), viewed by many as one of the most anti-Israel congressmen, suggested in his message on the Web site of the American Muslim Alliance that if Bush changed his view on the embassy, as president he could change his view on other issues, unlike Gore who "is absolutely in Israel's pocket."

Both Bush and Gore have been jockeying for the Arab American vote in a way never seen previously in U.S. presidential politics — particularly in the swing state of Michigan, which has a large Arab American population.

In a letter to Bush following that posting, a group of U.S. lawmakers in the House asked the GOP candidate to clarify his position.

The Bush campaign denies any change in the governor's views and reiterated that he would move the embassy if elected president.

At the American Israel Public Affairs Committee policy conference last spring, Bush received a standing ovation when he promised conference participants that he would move the U.S. ambassador in Israel to Jerusalem.

The Bush campaign reportedly said the governor had meant to say the embassy as well.

But Jewish Democrats seized on the issue to suggest that Bush would not support Jewish interests and accused Bush of playing politics with the issue.

Republicans struck back last week, seizing on news reports that the vice president, in a speech to Arab Americans in Michigan, had said he supported keeping the embassy in Tel Aviv.

The Wall Street Journal and the Detroit Free Press reported that the vice president had told a group of Arab American leaders last month that he had opposed moving the embassy.

The Gore campaign maintains the charge is "100 percent wrong," and that Gore continues to believe that the embassy should be moved in the future, but that the move can only take place in the context of the peace process.

The Gore campaign also quoted James Zogby, an advisor to the Gore campaign and a participant at the meeting, confirming that Gore said last week he believes any decision on the U.S. Embassy must be resolved in the context of the Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations. □

## Austria to pay slave laborers

NEW YORK (JTA) — Austria recently signed an agreement with the United States and five European states to set up a \$360-million fund to compensate slave laborers from the Nazi era.

Under the pact signed last month, Austria will pay an estimated 150,000 survivors, most of them non-Jews from many European countries.

Austria is also holding talks about providing compensation to Austrian Jews whose property was looted by the Nazis. □



## Daily News Bulletin

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## JEWISH WORLD

### Pole charged with Nazi murders

A 77-year-old Polish man was charged with Nazi collaboration during the Holocaust.

Polish prosecutors last Friday identified the man only as Henryk M. of Szczecin in northwest Poland, accusing him of "taking part in acts of genocide" at the Chelmno death camp from December 1941 until April 1943.

### Canadian synagogues firebombed

Two synagogues in the Canadian province of Alberta were firebombed last week. No one claimed responsibility, authorities said.

Synagogue officials in Edmonton blamed anti-Semitism for the attacks, part of a growing number of incidents targeted at Jewish institutions in Canada and other countries in recent weeks as tensions continue in the Middle East.

### France blasts U.S. court decision

France's prime minister criticized a U.S. court's decision to hear a lawsuit filed by American Holocaust survivors against French banks.

Speaking Saturday at an annual dinner hosted by French Jewish leaders, Lionel Jospin said the decision could delay France's efforts to make full restitution for wartime assets taken from Jews during World War II.

### Extremists march in Berlin

About 1,000 right-wing extremists marched through Berlin to protest the German government's plan to ban the far-right National Democratic Party. Several hundred leftists held a counter-rally nearby.

Several police officers were injured when the 1,800 police who were on duty had to forcibly keep the two sides apart.

### Czechs honor Swiss rescuer

A Swiss-born woman who helped Jewish families during the Nazi occupation of Czech lands was honored posthumously by Czech President Vaclav Havel.

Olga Fierz, who died in 1990, also helped provide housing after the war for children returning from German concentration and Czech internment camps.

### JDC offers work/study fellowship

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee is accepting applications for a fellowship in Jewish communal service that allows fellows to live abroad for a year of work/study.

The deadline for the Ralph I. Goldman Fellowship in International Jewish Communal Service, which requires a master's degree, but is open to people in all fields, is Nov. 10, 2000. More information is available at [www.jdc.org/help/volunteer.htm](http://www.jdc.org/help/volunteer.htm).

## Where top candidates stand on issues of Jewish concern

Compiled by JTA's Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Following is a summary of where the two leading U.S. presidential nominees, George W. Bush and Al Gore, stand on key issues of special concern to the American Jewish community:

### HATE CRIMES

- Bush:** Opposes expanding federal hate crimes legislation. Believes state enforcement of laws is sufficient.
- Gore:** Supports national hate crimes legislation that would expand the definition of hate crimes to include gender, sexual orientation and disability.

### SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL

- Bush:** Supports peace process and said he will "stand by Israel." Believes the United States should not "interfere with Israel's democratic process." Has said he supports moving the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.
- Gore:** Supports peace process and close relationship between the United States and Israel. Has said he supports moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem.

### SCHOOL PRAYER

- Bush:** Supports prayer in public schools. Wants public schools to allow more religious expression. Supports voluntary, student-led prayer, including a moment of silence for meditation or reflection.
- Gore:** Opposes organized prayer in public schools. Supports a student's right to voluntarily pray in school and supports voluntary participation in a moment of silence.

### SCHOOL VOUCHERS

- Bush:** Supports the use of public funds for paying private and religious school tuition. Would give parents funds to move children out of failing schools.
- Gore:** Opposes public funding of private schools. Believes vouchers would drain funds away from public schools.

### CHARITABLE CHOICE

- Bush:** Supports federal funding of faith-based organizations but says public money should not fund sectarian worship or proselytization. Has said he would establish an office for faith-based groups in his administration.
- Gore:** Supports federal funding of faith-based organizations with safeguards to ensure the separation of church and state. Would require secular alternatives and nonmandatory participation standards in religious observances as a condition for receiving services.

### GUN CONTROL

- Bush:** Would "vigorously prosecute" illegal sales of guns and those crimes committed with guns. Would make federal gun prosecutions a top priority.
- Gore:** Supports a ban on assault weapons, closing the gun show loophole, mandatory child-safety trigger locks, photo licensing for new handguns and restoring the three-day waiting period for handgun purchases.

### ABORTION RIGHTS

- Bush:** Pro-life with exceptions for rape, incest and endangering the life of the mother.
- Gore:** Pro-choice and in favor of expanding Medicaid funding of abortions. □

## ELECTIONS 2000

**Clinton and Lazio in a race to be seen as Israel's friend***By Matthew E. Berger*

WASHINGTON (JTA) — At times, the race for the U.S. Senate seat from New York appears to focus on the Mideast as much as it does on Empire State politics.

That's because first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and Rep. Rick Lazio are both battling for the crucial Jewish vote to help give them the winning edge.

Clinton, like most Democratic Senate candidates in the past, is likely to capture most of New York's Jewish vote.

However, the margin of the Democratic lead appears to be lower than in previous elections — one poll has Clinton's Jewish support as low as 63 percent.

A Lazio campaign aide said he thinks the Long Island congressman could carry between 35 and 45 percent of the Jewish vote.

The reason, the aide said, is Jews are frustrated with Clinton's perceived blunders when it comes to Israel and the Middle East peace process.

Most notably, during her trip to the Middle East in November 1999, Clinton failed to respond immediately to allegations made by Suha Arafat, wife of the Palestinian Authority president, that Israel poisoned the Palestinian population's water supply.

Clinton later said she did not receive a proper translation of Arafat's remarks.

The first lady has also found it difficult to distance herself from remarks she made two years ago, when she said the creation of a Palestinian state would be in the long-term interests of the region.

Most recently, the president returned campaign donations from a U.S. Muslim leader who had supported the Hamas terrorist group.

The \$1,000 donation made by Abudrahman Alamoudi, of the American Muslim Council, again put Jewish leaders at odds with the Clinton campaign.

But the first lady was quick to return the money, plus \$50,000 of additional contributions from Muslim leaders.

The Lazio campaign has been quick to highlight the areas where Clinton and the Jewish community have been at odds.

"It has planted a seed of doubt in the minds of the Jewish community," said the Lazio aide, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "Those who traditionally supported Democrats have some very serious doubts about whether she would be a friend of Israel."

Both campaigns are pumping up their support for Israel as they hit the Jewish campaign circuit at synagogues and community forums.

With tension rising in the Mideast, the Clinton campaign has been able to make up some lost ground as she speaks extensively about Israel and the Middle East peace process — issues both candidates see as close to Jewish voters' hearts.

A Jewish adviser to the Clinton campaign said the candidate has sought out the entire Jewish community and has embraced the meetings as opportunities to respond to concerns about the earlier controversies.

She answers the questions directly, said the aide, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"It offers a chance to dispel different rumors that are out there — distortions and half-truths."

New York has had several Jewish Democratic Senate candidates, including current Sen. Charles Schumer, who won in 1998, and former attorney general Robert Abrams, who lost to Alfonse D'Amato in 1992.

And since neither candidate is Jewish in this year's battle, talking about Israel is the way to show an alliance with Jewish New Yorkers.

"I don't think any candidate should take any vote for granted," the Clinton adviser said. "Jews are not monolithic voters. If you are trying to reach the Jewish voters, it is going to help you with other communities as well."

Although it does not make up a large percentage of the New York state vote, the Jewish vote has often been seen as a key voting bloc to gain statewide office, said Mickey Carroll, director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute in Hamden, Conn.

About 10 years ago, the Jewish vote made up close to one-third of the Democratic vote in New York City.

"The Jewish vote tended to be a vote that knew what the hell was going on," Carroll said.

"It's a vote that politicians take seriously, maybe out of proportion to its numbers."

The courtship has paid off in some of the Jewish media. New York area Jewish newspapers endorsing Clinton include the Forward, the Long Island Jewish World, Manhattan Jewish Sentinel and Westchester/Rockland Jewish Tribune.

But the Lazio campaign has been taking the Jewish vote seriously, too, making almost as many Jewish campaign appearances as Clinton.

"Historically, the Jewish vote in New York races has always been seen as a barometer," said Lazio spokesman Michael Marr. "If a Republican can get a certain percentage of the Jewish vote, he has a good chance of winning the election."

According to a poll by Zogby International, Clinton's support from Jewish likely voters has tapered off to 63 percent from 71 percent less than a month ago.

Lazio's Jewish support also decreased in the last month, but many more Jewish voters have either embraced third-party candidates or are now undecided.

"I think the polls have gone back and forth like that throughout this campaign," said Clinton spokeswoman Cathie Levine. "As we approach Election Day and people focus on what is important to them, Hillary's support will continue to grow."

But as they press the flesh with Jewish leaders, saying what the community wants to hear about the Middle East and Israel, both candidates run the risk of alienating other important voting groups.

James Zogby, president of the American Arab Institute, said he wishes he could get his \$500 contribution to the Clinton campaign back because of the return of the Muslim money.

Zogby has also criticized the way Lazio has seized on the latest incident.

"What is going on in New York is shameful," said Zogby, who serves as Vice President Al Gore's campaign adviser on ethnic affairs.

"People in the Jewish community should speak out and say they don't want this to go on. It's pandering." □