



# Daily News Bulletin

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83rd Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Four Israelis killed in ambushes

Palestinian gunmen killed four Israelis during ambushes in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Monday's attacks, which also wounded eight Israelis, prompted an Israeli government spokesman to say that the Palestinians are no longer engaged in a civil uprising, but in "warfare and terrorism."

Also Monday, two teen-age Palestinians were killed during a clash with Israeli soldiers in Khan Yunis in southern Gaza.

A day earlier in Washington, Barak met with President Clinton to assess the chances for ending the violence and resuming Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. The two leaders gave no indication after their two-hour meeting that they had found a way to halt the bloodshed. [Page 2]

### Clinton to ask for more Israel aid

The White House was expected to send a request to Capitol Hill for an additional aid package for Israel.

The Clinton administration wants Congress to give \$450 million this year to Israel for military purposes and to help defray the cost of its withdrawal from Lebanon.

The White House also wants to give an additional \$225 million to Egypt and \$75 million to Jordan.

### Arafat to attend Rabin funeral

Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat plans to attend Leah Rabin's funeral on Wednesday, according to a Palestinian source quoted by Israel's Army Radio.

Earlier, Israeli officials said they would not prevent Arafat from attending if he wanted to.

U.S. first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov are among others expected to attend the funeral.

The widow of the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will be buried in a plot beside her husband at Jerusalem's Mount Herzl Cemetery.

### Peace Now: End settlements

Peace Now published advertisements in Israeli and Palestinian newspapers calling for an end to Jewish settlements. Monday's ads, addressed to Prime Minister Ehud Barak, declared that there can be no peace while Jewish settlements remain near areas populated by Palestinians.

## NEWS ANALYSIS

### Israeli military readies for worst if the conflict refuses to die out

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM (JTA) — A year ago, Israeli intelligence officials reached the consensus that war between Israel and its Arab neighbors was unlikely.

Now, with more than six weeks of violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip continuing unabated, the Israel Defense Force is preparing itself for all possibilities.

The intelligence community now considers a full-scale military confrontation with the Arab world more probable than at any time since the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

"With the exception of Saddam Hussein, Arab leaders do not want war," said Meir Litvak of the Dayan Center at Tel Aviv University.

"However, they may well be dragged into such a war."

One trigger for a regional escalation was removed this week, when the Palestinian Authority decided once again not to issue a unilateral declaration of statehood.

Palestinian officials realized that neither the United States nor Europe would recognize such a state. Moreover, they were worried about Israel's threat to annex large swathes of the West Bank if the Palestinians unilaterally declare a state.

Just the same, violent clashes between Palestinian gunmen and Israeli troops continue on a near-daily basis.

On Monday, Palestinian gunmen killed three Israelis during two closely timed ambushes on cars traveling near the West Bank town of Ramallah.

A fourth Israeli was killed during a later attack in Gaza.

The attacks, which also wounded eight Israelis, prompted an Israeli government spokesman to say that the Palestinians are no longer engaged in a civil uprising, but in "warfare and terrorism." Hours later, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak was quoted as saying that he had ordered the army to respond with unspecified "steps." Not coincidentally, Barak's popularity has dropped dramatically during the past few weeks.

In a recent poll published by the Israeli daily Yediot Achronot, only 34 percent said Barak is coping well with the unrest in the territories. Some 65 percent said Barak has been "too soft" in dealing with the Palestinians.

People living in the southern Jerusalem neighborhood of Gilo, who have been subject to almost-daily gunfire from the nearby Arab town of Beit Jalla, are among those who say they fail to comprehend why the Israeli army has not taken more drastic measures against the gunmen. And many in Israel share their frustration.

A Gallup poll for the Ma'ariv newspaper showed that only 36 percent support a policy of restraint. By contrast, about 59 percent demand tough reprisals against the Palestinians.

Barak has been telling his army officers to maintain a measured response because he is well aware of the terrible price the country could pay for a further escalation.

Among the various scenarios if the conflict escalates:

- A major terrorist attack inside Israel with many civilian casualties leads Israel to take drastic punitive measures against Palestinian targets — also with many civilian casualties;

- Israel's Arab population renews its riots, as it did shortly after the current unrest began. Civil war looms when the nation's Jews strike back;

- Hezbollah militants resume bombing Israel's northern communities, and Israel responds with strikes inside Lebanon. Syria's inexperienced leader, President Bashar Assad, is drawn into war with the Jewish state — with Iraq soon following suit; and

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Fatah: Drive Israelis out

Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction called on Palestinians to drive all Israelis from the West Bank, Gaza Strip and eastern Jerusalem.

In a statement Monday, Fatah officials called for "continuous clashes" Wednesday, the anniversary of the 1988 declaration of Palestinian independence issued in Algeria.

### Israeli soldiers beaten in Gaza

Palestinian police in the Gaza Strip beat an Israeli army officer and two soldiers after they mistakenly approached a Palestinian post, Israeli media reported.

According to the reports of Monday's incident, the police dragged the soldiers into the post and began hitting them.

But when Palestinian security officials realized that the Israeli soldiers had only lost their way, they let them go.

### Suspected collaborator shot

A Palestinian suspected of collaborating with Israel was killed in the village of A-Ram north of Jerusalem, according to Palestinian security officials.

Local Arabs believed that Kasem Khlef, who was shot 12 times Sunday, may have helped Israel locate and kill a militia leader in a rocket attack last week near Bethlehem, the officials said.

### Jericho casino comes under fire

The Israeli army fired at the Oasis Casino in Jericho after Palestinian gunmen used the building to fire on an Israeli settlement and army position in the area.

Palestinians in Jericho said the shelling late Sunday night had caused damage to an upper floor of the building, which was built amid high hopes for the peace process.

• Jordan and Egypt are unable to stand idly by — and the entire region is engulfed by war.

In the case of Jordan, at least, it would not be the first time that the Hashemite Kingdom found its foreign policy imposed by the local populace, more than two-thirds of which is Palestinian.

"Ten years ago, during the Gulf War, King Hussein of Jordan was dragged into supporting Saddam Hussein following massive pro-Iraqi demonstrations in the Jordanian street," said professor Yosef Nevo of Haifa University. "This may very well happen to King Abdullah as well."

For now, Israel's plan for dealing with the Palestinian violence has been to keep cool and not be dragged into a cycle of action and reaction dictated by the other side.

Army drawers are filled with contingency plans — from conquering Beit Jalla and putting an end to the shooting at Gilo to the conquest of Damascus.

For now, however, Israel is trying to find ways to react without expanding the circle of violence. The almost universal opinion among military and Middle East experts, however, is that things are going to get worse before they get better.

Among those who are somewhat more optimistic is Israeli Foreign Minister Shlomo Ben-Ami.

Just as the 1987-1993 Palestinian uprising led Israel and the Palestinians to reach the Oslo accords, he said, the current violence could prompt them to recognize each other's minimum demands — and ultimately lead to a final peace agreement. □

## Israel sustains worst death toll since violence in territories began

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel has sustained its heaviest one-day toll of casualties since the violence began in the West Bank and Gaza Strip more than six weeks ago.

Palestinian gunmen killed four Israelis — including two soldiers and a woman — during three separate ambushes Monday. Eight other people were wounded in the attacks. Israel responded with a decision to seal off all Palestinian towns in the West Bank, an Israeli general, Yitzhak Eitan, announced at a news conference hours later.

The attacks came after a Washington meeting between Prime Minister Ehud Barak and President Clinton failed to produce a breakthrough in efforts to end the cycle of violence and renew negotiations with the Palestinians.

News of the attacks reached Barak in Chicago, where he was taking part in the annual General Assembly of U.S. Jewish federations.

Barak adviser Gilad Sher said the prime minister was in contact with senior military officials to discuss the steps Israel would now take.

In Chicago, Barak spokesman Nachman Shai said the similarity of Monday's ambushes indicates that they had been centrally planned.

He also charged that Arafat had abandoned the peace process and was planning to create a Palestinian state with "blood and fire." Shai said Barak had warned Clinton during their meeting Sunday night that Arafat is "destabilizing the entire region."

In the wake of Monday's shootings, Jewish settler leaders called on Barak to give the Israel Defense Force a free hand in responding to the Palestinians.

Israel Television quoted sources in Barak's entourage in Chicago as saying that Israel is not planning to abandon its policy of restraint. One source was quoted as saying that it would be easy to respond "emotionally" to the ambushes, but it took far greater effort to respond in ways that would ultimately achieve Israel's overall goals.

The two soldiers were killed when Palestinian gunmen opened fire from a passing car on a bus transporting Israeli soldiers. The woman was traveling in a civilian car when she was fired upon and killed. The two closely timed attacks occurred near Ramallah. The perpetrators were believed to have fled to the Palestinian self-rule areas.

Hours later, an Israeli driving a truck died after he was fired on in Gaza.

The two soldiers were identified as Cpl. Elad Wallerstein, 18, of Ashkelon, and Cpl. Amit Zana, 18, of Netanya. □



## Daily News Bulletin

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## JEWISH WORLD

### Lawyer claims Floridians in Israel could cast their votes even now

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — A lawyer here claims that Floridians who live in Israel may be able to make a difference in the U.S. presidential election by voting now.

With the margin in the decisive Florida race being referred to in terms of hundreds, absentee ballots cast by registered voters in the state could have a say in who will be the next U.S. president.

Under Florida law, absentee ballots can be counted up to 10 days after Nov. 7 if they are postmarked on or before Election Day.

But Jerusalem lawyer David Baskin asserts that there may be a loophole in the law that would make it possible for absentee voters who already have ballots to vote now.

He cites a slip included with the absentee ballot informing voters of the right to submit a vote after the election if, for some reason, the ballot could not be postmarked on Election Day.

The slip reads, "Please make every effort to see that your ballot is postmarked. If, however, you do not have a method to show a postmark, and your ballot is received by the November 17th deadline, it will be counted if otherwise valid."

"Therefore," Baskin said, "if the ballot were to arrive by the 17th and didn't have a postmark, they could still" submit it.

But Byrna Franklin, chairwoman of Democrats Abroad in Israel, said that while she is no expert on election processes, "it's late in the game" and "to win by a loophole would degrade the campaign."

Whether the Israel absentee vote will specifically sway the election is not clear. Figures on the number of former Florida residents living in Israel are sketchy.

The Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel estimated that about 4,000 registered Florida voters are in Israel.

There are no figures on how many voted. □

### A Floridian living abroad thankful he cast his ballot

By Ruth E. Gruber

BUDAPEST (JTA) — Marc Servin spends most of his time in central Italy, but is a registered voter in Florida's Broward County.

He had never before voted in a presidential election until he cast his absentee ballot this year for the Gore-Lieberman ticket.

"I can't tell you how grateful I am to an American friend in Italy who made sure that I got an absentee ballot and voted," Servin said. "I never would have guessed that Florida would even have relevance in this election, much less that everyone else in the world would be wondering about the absentee ballots from Florida."

Servin, 50, and his wife, Helaine Treitman, run an international school of art in Italy. On Election Day this year, he was on vacation in Budapest.

Servin and his wife both regard themselves as Democrats, but he said they had not thought of voting absentee until a friend put the pressure on.

"I had heard of absentee voting, but I wasn't part of a community where that knowledge was around," he said. "I was in a small village with few other Americans around."

This year, said Servin, he was "pretty emphatically against Bush being president," but he didn't do anything about voting until an American friend convinced him and Treitman to get absentee ballots.

Servin said that he went online and downloaded ballot application material. Once he had the ballot in hand, he said, it turned out that DHL Worldwide Express had an arrangement to deliver ballots to the states for free.

"So we did it — it was easy," he said. "We delivered our ballots to DHL on Oct. 31, so they should have arrived by Election Day — but who knows?" □

### Jews, blacks want fair vote count

Jews and blacks joined forces to press for a fair vote count in Florida.

Speakers at a joint rally held Sunday at Temple Israel of Greater Miami claimed the two groups had been disenfranchised as a result of irregularities in the disputed vote in Palm Beach County, where an ongoing recount could decide who is the next resident of the White House.

### AJCongress: Arafat, halt violence

The American Jewish Congress ran a full-page ad in Sunday's New York Times admitting that it may have been wrong to believe that Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat could be a partner for peace with Israel.

Headlined "It Takes a Big Organization to Admit it Was Wrong," the advertisement calls on the Palestinian leader to halt the ongoing violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and engage in what it calls "real peacemaking."

### Croatian youths remembered

A plaque commemorating 165 Jewish youths killed in Croatia during World War II was unveiled at the offices of the Jewish community in the capital of Zagreb.

The youths, high school and college students, were taken prisoner in May 1941, one month after the creation of Croatia's wartime regime, which backed the Nazis.

The students were later transported to a death camp.

### British Jews blasted on Israel

British Jews are not speaking up forcefully for Israel because they are "insecure" and "afraid of being politically incorrect," said a rabbi who used to head a California synagogue and took up a pulpit in Britain earlier this year.

A spokesman for a British Jewish group reacted to South African-born Rabbi Abner Weiss' comments by saying that British Jews should advance Israel's position in a "sophisticated" fashion and not "take to the streets in demonstrations."

### Legislator undergoing transplant

Fervently Orthodox legislator Avraham Ravitz was to undergo a kidney transplant after receiving a donor organ from his eldest son.

Of the lawmaker's 12 children, all five of his sons tested as suitable donors and each vied to provide the organ.

The Israeli daily Ma'ariv said the dilemma was resolved through consultation with rabbis, who decided that two of the sons would draw lots to decide.

## ARTS &amp; CULTURE

## From dybbuks to davening, dancers explore Jewish themes

By Julie Wiener

NEW YORK (JTA) — In an airy clapboard building in a rustic Connecticut town at the peak of leaf-peeping season, a bare-chested white man — his unruly brown hair shaking as he moves — is praying.

But while his body sways fervently at first, it turns more limp as he grows increasingly distracted by the man curled in a ball on the other side of a black rubber mat.

The first man approaches cautiously, then begins to poke and prods until the once-dormant man gracefully wrestles him to the floor. After a struggle, the two slowly, and then with growing intensity, pray together. A man seated cross-legged on the wooden floor adjacent to the mat breaks the silence.

"It seems more and more that this shuckling and davening business is going to be common to all the sections," he muses, using the Yiddish words for the repeated bowing motions traditional Jews make while praying.

This man, who has been scribbling notes in a bound book for the past few minutes, is Jonathan Wolken, 51, co-founder and artistic director of the avant-garde Pilobolus Dance Theatre.

On an October morning, the troupe — known for its humor, inventiveness and contortionist dance moves that seem impossible — is choreographing a 25-minute piece that must in some way reflect the Jewish experience in America. It's an unusual assignment for a troupe that has only one Jewish member — Wolken — and has never focused on Jewish or religious themes at all.

The piece, which will be accompanied by the Klezmatics musical group, has been commissioned by the National Foundation for Jewish Culture and funded by the Ford Motor Co.

Following preview performances at the United Jewish Communities' General Assembly in Chicago earlier this week, the piece will premiere at Washington's Kennedy Center on Nov. 30 and then travel around the country.

The just-rehearsed section is loosely about a dybbuk, the demon from Jewish folklore. Loosely, because in October, Wolken — and co-director Robby Barnett — were unsure and cryptic in discussing the yet-to-be-titled piece.

Wolken says it is "about the role of God," but then adds, "no matter what it means to us, it's purposely constructed by us to be ambiguous."

The only specifics they would offer is that one segment will explore why men and women do not pray together in traditional Judaism. Another is influenced by an Isaac Bashevis Singer story about a wife angry with her husband for letting their children go hungry.

Both directors toss out multiple metaphors to describe how Pilobolus pieces develop. Barnett explains it first as "sort of a kinetic, automatic writing," then says it is akin to putting tarot cards together to determine a fortune. Wolken sees the creative process as "panning for gold," then later compares it to putting ingredients together to bake a cake.

Unlike some troupes that use dance to tell a story or to interpret a piece of music, the Pilobolus directors and six dancers spend eight-hour days at their studio thinking about a particular

theme, trying things out, talking, then refining.

As for the music, it is being composed simultaneously, rather than beforehand, with composer Frank London of the Klezmatics regularly touching base with the dancers.

"I ran on my direction, they ran on theirs," London said. "Soon I'm going to have to make my stuff fit their stuff."

London has been crafting the music in a cluttered walk-up apartment in Manhattan's East Village.

In mid-October — in his small study crammed with a piano, cassettes, CDs, several musical instruments and his children's brightly colored Fisher Price toys — London fiddled with his CD player and played strains of the new Klezmer-inspired and cantorial melody-inspired pieces he had created so far and planned to test out for Pilobolus. But just how does one create an American Jewish work, particularly when American Jewishness is such a broad and varied thing?

Easy enough for the Klezmatics, which — after all — is a group of Jews whose work is often described as a fusion of contemporary sounds and traditional Eastern European music.

Trickier for Pilobolus. But its process is a combination of trial and error, with the directors confident that if they have Jewish issues on their mind while working on it, the Jewish influence will be apparent but not overwrought. To that end, Wolken — who says he has not thought so extensively about Judaism since graduating from Hebrew high school in Pittsburgh — is rummaging through family memories and reading widely, from I.B. Singer to the Bible.

Although he "passed into nonpractice for a long, long time" when he went to college, Wolken says one of the reasons he was attracted to this project was the opportunity to reconsider Judaism.

"At some point, one is done pushing away and more interested perhaps in gathering in," he said.

The troupe is also consulting with rabbis, including Rabbi Moshe Waldoks, spiritual leader of Temple Beth Zion in suburban Boston and someone widely viewed as a leader in efforts to make synagogues more spiritually nourishing.

Waldoks said he talked to the dancers about mystical teachings and how Judaism "avoids the tug of war between good and evil only," that it aims toward "balancing of opposites" and "looks toward the central or middle path." For the most part, the dancers say they're enjoying the interaction with Jewish culture.

"I love the music," said Gaspard Louis, 31, a Haitian immigrant who dances the part of the dybbuk. Klezmer's rhythm reminds him of Haitian music, he said, noting that it "just soothes the bone and motivates you to move."

Josie Coyoc, 32, was raised Catholic but considers herself a "New Age spiritualist." She recalls a trip to Israel a few years ago when, while performing with a different dance company, she visited the Western Wall and spoke with young Israeli soldiers.

She's hoping by the time the piece is completed, she will have learned more about "what's specific to" Jewish culture.

At the October rehearsal, Wolken's memories are stirred as Coyoc and dancer Renee Jaworski try out a segment in which the two circle their arms, similar to the motions Jewish women make over the Shabbat candles.

"My mother used to do that every Friday," sighs Wolken, a somewhat dreamy expression on his face. "It does something for me."

Then he snaps back into his role as director.

"It needs another layer, but it's a start," he says. □