



# Daily News Bulletin

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84th Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### **Powell calls for end to violence**

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell held separate talks with Israeli Prime Minister-elect Ariel Sharon and Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat. During Sunday's talks, Powell called on both to end the violence and return to negotiations. [Page 3]

### **Jewish settler wounded**

A Jewish settler was seriously wounded in a shooting attack near Ramallah as U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell was holding talks with Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat in the West Bank city. [Page 3]

### **Sharon addresses JCPA**

Jerusalem belongs to all the Jewish people and Israel is only its custodian, Prime Minister-elect Ariel Sharon told Jewish leaders.

Conveying his remarks through a spokesman, Sharon also told a conference in Washington of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs that he would "work to achieve lasting peace with security for generations."

The annual conference opened Sunday, when more than 1,000 activists met to focus on support for Israel and discuss domestic issues.

Stuart Eizenstat, who served as President Clinton's point man on Holocaust issues, will be honored by the umbrella organization of 123 local groups and 13 national organizations for his commitment to social justice efforts facing the American Jewish community.

### **Powell visits Yad Vashem**

During his brief stay in Israel, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell visited the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial. Powell rekindled the memorial flame Sunday in the Hall of Remembrance and visited a memorial for children murdered in the Holocaust.

### **Chasidic pardons investigated**

The U.S. Attorney's Office is investigating President Clinton's pardon of four Chasidic men in upstate New York convicted of stealing government funds by creating a phony yeshiva.

The office is examining whether Clinton offered the commutations in exchange for obtaining Chasidic votes for Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton in last year's race for a U.S. Senate seat in New York.

## FOCUS ON ISSUES

### **Lithuanian moves against ex-Nazis seen as response to global pressure**

By Lev Gorodetsky

MOSCOW (JTA) — Lithuania has long been accused of purposefully dragging its feet in Nazi-era war crimes cases.

But two recent events appear to show that the former Soviet republic is responding to international pressure and moving ahead with some prosecutions.

Earlier this month, the country saw its first successful World War II-era conviction since it earned its independence in 1991.

A court in the capital of Vilnius convicted Kazys Gimzauskas of collaborating with the Nazis.

Gimzauskas, 93, was found guilty of taking part in the Nazi killings of Jews and of handing over Jews to Nazi death squads while he served as deputy head of the Lithuanian security police between 1941 and 1944.

In the second instance, a Lithuanian court issued an arrest warrant for an 85-year-old man suspected of murdering Jews during World War II.

Now living in Scotland, Anton Gecas is alleged to have killed Jews and other civilians when he was head of a special Nazi police unit in a part of Lithuania that is now in the former Soviet republic of Belarus.

Gecas was the subject of investigations in 1987, but the case was later dropped.

The actions, say observers, are a direct reflection of international pressure on Lithuania.

"I believe that the perception in the media and among the politicians is that the Lithuanian public does not want any of this done, but they realize that because of Western pressure and their desire to get into NATO and the E.U., they have to do something in this regard," Efraim Zuroff, head of the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Jerusalem office, told JTA.

Despite the actions on Gimzauskas and Gecas, the Baltic nation's record on prosecuting war criminals is far from exemplary, observers note.

Gimzauskas's immediate wartime superior, Aleksandras Lileikis, was the first person Lithuania brought to trial for Nazi-era war crimes.

But after numerous delays, Lileikis, 93, died of a heart attack last summer before the trial could be completed.

Indeed, even though Gimzauskas was convicted, the court refused to sentence him, saying he suffers from Alzheimer's disease.

Observers in Vilnius drew attention to the fact that this degenerative psychiatric disease did not prevent Gimzauskas from publishing a book of memoirs, recollecting his wartime struggle against German and Russian invaders for Lithuania's freedom.

And activists are still pressing Lithuania to take stronger action against other war criminals, including Vincas Valkavickas and Kazys Ciurinkas.

As Gimzauskas' memoir indicates, Lithuania's memories of Jewish behavior during the wartime years lie at the core of Lithuania's longtime hesitance.

For many in Lithuania, Jews are strongly associated with Stalin's annexation of the Baltic countries in 1940, when many Jews served in the Soviet Red Army — and even in Stalin's secret police.

This was one of the reasons for violent anti-Jewish outbursts immediately after the June 1941 German invasion of the Soviet Union.

Lithuanian public opinion therefore viewed people like Lileikis and Gimzauskas not as war criminals or Jew-killers, but as freedom fighters against Russian oppressors and

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Partial confession in Web murder

A Palestinian woman accused of using the Internet to lure Israeli teen-ager Ofir Rahum to his death admitted to planning to kidnap him, but said she did not intend to kill him.

Israel Radio reported that Amana Mona told investigators she had communicated with several Israelis who had expressed anti-Palestinian sentiments. As a result, she said, she decided to kidnap one of them to send a message to the world about the deaths of young Palestinians in the ongoing violence.

On Sunday, the Israeli daily Yediot Achronot published a photograph of Rahum's headstone, in the shape of a computer terminal, which his family said symbolized the importance it played in the teen's life.

### Clashes erupt in Hebron

Israeli troops clashed with Palestinians in the West Bank city of Hebron. Sunday's fighting erupted after the troops arrested a Palestinian woman who attempted to knife an Israeli.

### Rabbinate: No women in combat

Israel's Orthodox Chief Rabbinate Council opposes female soldiers serving in combat positions, saying it harms their femininity and distracts male soldiers.

The Israeli daily Ma'ariv reported that the council warned in a letter to the Israel Defense Force's chief of staff that if the situation is not amended, it could harm the recruitment of soldiers into the hesder program, which combines yeshiva study with army service.

### Israeli condom use up

The percentage of Israelis who use condoms for casual sex has doubled in the past two years, according to a study. The study, commissioned by an anti-AIDS group, indicated that 40 percent of those polled said they use condoms for casual sex, compared with 32 percent last year and 21 percent the year before.



## Daily News Bulletin

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their Jewish collaborators, even after more than 90 percent of Lithuania's 250,000 prewar Jews died in the Holocaust.

Lithuania's top Jewish official, Simonas Alperavicius, has acknowledged that there were high-profile Jews serving with the Soviet secret police during and after World War II, but said they were acting as Soviet officials, not as Jews.

The widespread, but tacit, grass-roots support for the alleged war criminals was the main cause behind the apparent unwillingness of the Lithuanian authorities to launch trials.

More generally, the government and the media react to this perception, according to Zuroff, by taking a low profile.

For example, there was little reaction to the conviction of Gimzauskas in Lithuanian newspapers, he said.

At the same time that some progress is being made on Nazi-era crimes, however, anti-Semitism appears to be remaining steady.

Anti-Semitic incidents have been increasing recently, most notably in newspapers. And Vytautas Suskauskas, the mayor of Kaunas, Lithuania's second largest city, recently made anti-Semitic comments.

In reaction to these incidents, a group of legislators called on the government earlier this month to crack down on extremists.

But Alperavicius is not optimistic.

"It is of course a positive development that at least one Nazi criminal case has been completed. It is important for the community. But the level of anti-Semitism stays the same," he told JTA. □

## Writer known for anti-Semitic myths removed from Canadian trade show

By Bill Gladstone

TORONTO (JTA) — A proposed boycott has forced organizers of a health trade show to cancel the appearance of a writer known for spreading anti-Semitic myths.

After three sponsors of next month's "Total Health" show vowed not to participate, the organizers announced that they had rescinded the invitation to author Eustace Mullins.

Jewish officials had been stunned to learn that Mullins had been invited to speak on medical and financial monopolies at the show, which is scheduled to have some 70 speakers, as well as 200 exhibits and demonstrations.

Mullins has written books in which Jews are depicted as controllers of the global economy who slaughter Christian babies for blood rituals — a centuries-old accusation known as the blood libel.

"Mr. Mullins is well-known to the leadership of the Jewish community as someone who has a long history of anti-Semitism of the worst kind, dealing with blood libel and Holocaust denial," said Keith Landy, chair of the Ontario Region of the Canadian Jewish Congress.

"So we certainly have been calling upon the sponsoring organization to un-invite him."

The Congress presented the organizers of the event with roughly 100 pages of what it calls "incontrovertible evidence" of Mullins' anti-Semitism.

But the group received no response.

John and Libby Gardon, founding members of the Consumer Health Organization — which is organizing the show — initially refused to withdraw the invitation, explaining that they have known Mullins for many years and regarded him as a "respected author."

"Do you think we're going to cancel a speaker?" John Gardon told a newspaper reporter.

"It's excellent publicity. People will come to hear his side of the story."

But the Gardons changed their minds after the three participants — Noah's Natural Foods, Baldwin Natural Foods and The Big Carrot — said they would withdraw from the event.

"Their actions helped to ensure that this racist and bigot extraordinaire would not find a platform in Canada," Landy said. □

## JEWISH WORLD

### Calif. Holocaust law upheld

Holocaust victims and their families in California won an important legal victory with an appeals court ruling upholding the constitutionality of the state's Holocaust Victim Insurance Relief Act.

The decision overturned a lower court ruling that the relief act violated federal statutes.

Passed by the California legislature in 1999, the act requires insurance companies to make full disclosure of policies issued in Europe between 1920 and 1945.

### U.N. commissioner criticizes Iran

The U.N. high commissioner for human rights criticized Iran last week for what the Simon Wiesenthal Center said was a deliberate effort to bar a Jewish representative from a conference on racism that Iran hosted.

Mary Robinson, whom Israel views as an unfairly harsh critic, "expressed her dismay at the 'procedural and technical' difficulties" that prevented the center, as well as the Bahai International Community, from attending the meeting in Tehran, according to a statement from her office.

### Philip Roth wins book prize

Philip Roth's "The Human Stain" won the National Jewish Book Awards's fiction prize, making Roth a three-time winner of the award.

In the 51st annual awards sponsored by the Jewish Book Council, Samuel Freedman won the non-fiction prize for "Jew vs. Jew," his exploration of conflict within the American Jewish community.

The awards, including about 15 others in more specific categories, will be given out March 29.

### Jews, Latinos to hold summit

Jewish and Latino leaders are scheduled to hold a summit next month to discuss a plan to increase ties between the two groups.

Both communities plan to declare support for one another on issues such as foreign affairs, education, public image and economic development at the summit, which is sponsored by B'nai B'rith International and Latino groups.

### Neo-Nazi link in Ivy murders

One of the two teen-age suspects in last month's murder of two Dartmouth College professors had literature related to neo-Nazism, white supremacy and Holocaust denial in his home, but authorities refused to discuss a motive for the crime.

The day the German-born professors were killed was Holocaust Remembrance Day in Germany. Friends have said the couple believed that Germany should face up to its Nazi past.

## NEWS ANALYSIS

### Powell's visit to Middle East appears to herald policy shift

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — If U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell made anything clear during his visit this week to Israel and the Palestinian-controlled city of Ramallah, it was that things have changed since President Clinton left office.

First, there was the duration of his visit — one day — with Powell's meetings with Israeli and Palestinian leaders wedged in between stop-offs in Egypt and Jordan.

Second, there was the absence of U.S. proposals — a hallmark of the Clinton era — aimed at ending the more than five months of Israeli-Palestinian violence and forging a final peace accord.

While Powell called on both sides to end the violence and return to negotiations — and pointedly told Israel to lift the economic sanctions it has imposed on the Palestinian Authority — he had little else to suggest to the two sides in his public comments other than that it is up to them to make the "hard decisions" that will enable them to return to the road of peace.

Since President Bush took office in late January, U.S. officials have said that while they will continue to pursue Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking, it is but one facet of their overall Middle East policy. Indeed, Powell's trip to the Middle East — his first since becoming the top U.S. diplomat — appeared to be less about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict than getting Arab support for U.S. policies aimed at containing Iraq.

During meetings with Arab leaders this week, Powell discussed the need to keep up sanctions against Iraq — first imposed in the wake of the war — in order to deal with the threat posed by Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

In fact, during a joint news conference with Prime Minister-elect Ariel Sharon on Sunday, Powell stressed that Saddam had to be restrained. Citing German intelligence reports that Baghdad might have nuclear weapons in three years, Powell said, "We have to make sure that we do everything we can to contain" Saddam.

The difficulty of putting an end to Israeli-Palestinian violence was underscored by several incidents that took place during Powell's visit.

As Powell was urging the two sides to take steps to stop the cycle of violence, two Israeli settlers were wounded in separate shooting attacks in the West Bank. The commander of Israeli forces in the area said it is possible the two attacks were linked.

After meeting Sunday in Ramallah with Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat, Powell called on Israel to lift the economic "siege" it had imposed on the areas under Palestinian control since violence erupted last September.

Later Sunday, Israel announced that it was taking a step aimed at implementing at least a part of Powell's requests: The Israeli army lifted roadblocks it had set up last week that had divided the Gaza Strip into two.

For his part, Arafat used his joint news conference with Powell to call on the United States to ensure that Israel pick up negotiations from where they left off under outgoing Prime Minister Ehud Barak.

Barak's purported willingness to give the Palestinians control over parts of eastern Jerusalem during last July's failed Camp David summit was a major factor in his defeat at the hands of Sharon in the nation's Feb. 6 elections for prime minister. Barak, seconded by Clinton, has said the proposals aired at Camp David were no longer on the table. But Arafat maintained Sunday that "no government can write off what the previous government did."

Earlier in the day, after meeting with Powell, Sharon outlined his own demand. "One thing should be clear: Israel will not negotiate under pressure of terror and violence," Sharon said at his joint news conference with the U.S. secretary of state.

Sharon denied that any negotiations were under way with the Palestinians. But he acknowledged that there existed "channels of communication" for conveying messages to the Palestinians.

During Powell's meetings Sunday, more than 2,000 Palestinians protested in Gaza against his visit. The protesters burned pictures of Powell and called on him to go home.

Throughout the West Bank, Palestinian shopkeepers heeded demands by militant groups to protest Powell's visit and closed their shops early. □

## Jewish newspaper scam concludes with sentencing 'great white shark'

By Steve Lipman  
New York Jewish Week

NEW YORK (JTA) — For years, the phone calls would come from people identifying themselves as advertising sellers for the Jewish World News. They would take orders, at exorbitant rates, for a newspaper that essentially didn't exist.

For years, Robert Cohn, editor in chief of The St. Louis Jewish Light, would console fellow editors of legitimate American Jewish weekly newspapers whose readers and advertisers were being defrauded.

"Don't be discouraged," he would say. "One of these days we'll get justice."

That day came this month.

More than a decade after the latest — and largest — Jewish newspaper scam began, its architect received a five-year prison sentence for fraud in federal court in East St. Louis, Ill, a St. Louis suburb.

Scott Rose, 37, who had previous convictions for burglary and selling marijuana, also was ordered to pay up to \$2.5 million in reparations, the amount the government said he bilked advertisers.

"I feel very much like we landed the great white shark," said Cohn, who said he was "intimately" involved in the government's prosecution of Rose and his associates. The verdict was "far beyond my wildest dreams."

Cohn, chairman of the American Jewish Press Association's committee on ethics and professional standards, says representatives of the Jewish World News, using Jewish-sounding names, would call prospective advertisers and offer ad space in the paper, which printed only a small number of copies, distributed mainly to the ad buyers. Its ads and news stories were photocopied from other Jewish publications.

"It was embarrassing. It gave the whole Jewish press a black eye," Cohn said.

The ad sellers would often vaguely identify themselves as working for "the Jewish paper in town" and solicit ads for an upcoming, unnamed holiday. Often, Cohn said, they would imply that anyone declining to buy an ad was anti-Semitic.

The tactics are "false, misleading, coercive — and now it's been confirmed that they were illegal," he said.

Such scams for some 60 years have operated, or are still running, in Florida, New Jersey, California and Brooklyn. The one based near St. Louis "was one of the largest," Cohn said.

Rose solicited ads not only in the St. Louis area, in both Illinois and Missouri, but also across the nation between 1991 and February 2000.

An estimated 5,000 clients fell victims to the fraud, having been bilked out of more than \$2.5 million.

Rose, a former school board member from Fairview Heights, Ill., a St. Louis suburb, pleaded guilty of mail fraud in August. He said his mother is Jewish, but his religious beliefs were not disclosed in court proceedings.

Rose was sentenced Feb. 6 by U.S. District Judge William Beatty in East St. Louis, who rejected Assistant U.S. Attorney Hal Goldsmith's recommendations for a lesser sentence and gave Rose the maximum prison term for mail fraud.

"I have taken into consideration the government's recommendation, but because of the magnitude, as I said earlier not just in

terms of money but in terms of the number of victims, I feel that to do anything other than to sentence the defendant to the maximum term would be to completely ignore the seriousness of not only the amounts involved in this, but the time that it went on," Beatty said.

Before his sentence was read, Rose said, "I have nobody to blame but myself. I've made a lot of mistakes in my life. I'm sorry."

Victims of Rose's scam have up to 20 years to collect restitution for funds they may have paid for advertisements in his publications. Persons with such claims can access the Web at [usdoj.gov/usao/ils](http://usdoj.gov/usao/ils) or call (618) 628-3700. □

(The St. Louis Jewish Light contributed to this report.)

## Anti-Semitic violence, vandalism increased in Canada, report says

By Bill Gladstone

TORONTO (JTA) — Anti-Semitic incidents in Canada increased by 5 percent in 2000, according to a report released this week by B'nai Brith Canada.

The frequency of incidents — there were 280 overall — increased substantially during the last three months of the year, apparently in reaction to the renewed violence in the Middle East.

The incidents include physical assault, vandalism, threats, synagogue firebombings, arson attacks and a cemetery desecration.

The most violent incident described in the report took place in October in a Montreal subway station, where two men identified as Arab youths viciously beat a Jewish student wearing a yarmulke.

The victim was knocked unconscious and would have been thrown onto the rails had two passengers not intervened.

A "disturbing" recent development in Canada is that many expressions of hate have been sparked by the political conflict in the Middle East, said Karen Mock, director of B'nai Brith Canada's League for Human Rights.

"It is not seen as Canadian behavior to act out political issues in a violent way," she said.

"To see Canadian turn against Canadian because of events in the Middle East is very disheartening."

In one such incident, demonstrators at a pro-Palestinian street rally in Toronto harassed local Jewish bystanders, chanted "Death to the Jews" in Arabic, and carried placards equating the Jewish star with the swastika.

It was in Montreal, though, where the troubles in the Mideast appeared to spill over the most into Canadian streets. The audit revealed 71 reported incidents in Montreal — a figure 92 percent higher than last year's tally.

In the Montreal suburb of Saint-Laurent, which has large Arab and Jewish populations, a Jewish elementary school's windows were smashed, students were verbally abused and swastikas were painted on walls.

"It's a fine line between freedom of expression and hatemongering," said B'nai Brith's Quebec director, Robert Libman. "A pro-Palestinian demonstration is one thing, but when you find materials denying the Holocaust and anti-Semitic tracts, that's another."

At Concordia University in Montreal, a large Arab student body has been vocal in its condemnation of Israel, with actions bordering on violence toward the school's Jewish students. □

(JTA correspondent Bram Eisenthal in Montreal contributed to this report.)