



Daily News Bulletin

Vol. 79, No. 123

Tuesday, July 3, 2001

84th Year

TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

Palestinian gunmen kill Israeli

Palestinian gunmen shot and killed an Israeli who was shopping in an Arab village.

Israeli police said the man had been killed within Israel proper, contradicting earlier reports that he had been shot on a West Bank road.

Nine Israelis were treated for shock after two car bombs blew up Monday in the Israeli town of Yehud, which is located near Ben-Gurion Airport.

Israeli security sources said the car the bombers were traveling in was packed with explosives that were going to be used in an attack against Israeli targets. [Page 3]

Sharon cancels Belgium trip

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon canceled a trip to Belgium after a judge there opened an investigation into his role in the 1982 Sabra and Shatila massacre in Lebanon, the Israeli daily Ha'aretz reported Monday.

Sharon is due to leave Thursday on his first official visit to Europe since taking office as prime minister earlier this year.

Letter slams Maccabiah decision

Some 22 Maccabi USA Executive Committee members and coaches sent a letter to the organization's leadership criticizing the decision to send a U.S. delegation to the upcoming Maccabiah Games in Israel.

The dissenting group said it believes political and financial pressures to send a delegation outweighed safety and security concerns when the decision was made to send the U.S. team to the Games, which begin July 16.

Court: Y.U. may be violating law

Yeshiva University's policy of barring gay couples from its married student housing may violate New York City anti-discrimination statutes, New York state's highest court ruled Monday.

The Court of Appeals ruled that a lesbian couple should be allowed to sue Yeshiva University's medical school for bias based on sexual orientation.

The decision overturned two lower court rulings, which found that the college's policy was not discriminatory because it applied not only to homosexual couples but also to unmarried heterosexual couples.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Israel watches Hezbollah for signs that it will open a new battleground

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israeli security sources are warily considering the possibility that Hezbollah militants in Lebanon will expand their operations into Israel. Analysts believe the group is only awaiting a green light from Damascus to launch a new offensive against the Jewish state.

Hezbollah's leader, Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, warned Sunday that Israel was "playing with fire" when it struck Syrian positions in Lebanon that day.

"This aggression will not be dealt with like in the past, but in a different form," he said.

The Israeli daily Ma'ariv this week quoted security sources saying that Hezbollah may try to hit an Israeli passenger plane, an embassy or perhaps kidnap Israeli citizens abroad.

The threats come against the backdrop of continuing Israeli-Palestinian violence, despite U.S. efforts to broker a workable cease-fire.

These threats are likely to enhance the fears of an already jittery Israeli public.

The renewed violence in the north began last Friday when Hezbollah gunmen launched a rocket attack that wounded two Israeli soldiers, one of them seriously.

The attack took place in the Shabaa Farms region that Lebanon regards as its territory, a claim both Israel and the United Nations reject.

The attack set off a familiar series of strikes and counterstrikes. Israeli jets struck Syrian positions in Lebanon on Sunday, when Israel's Security Cabinet blamed Damascus for giving Hezbollah the go-ahead for the rocket attack.

Hezbollah gunmen then answered the Israeli action by firing mortars and rockets at Israeli army positions along the border with Lebanon.

The cycle of violence resembled similar events in April, when Israel attacked Syrian radar installations in Lebanon after Hezbollah fired on Israeli forces.

The Security Cabinet did not pull any punches Sunday when it came to Syria.

"Israel has determined that these criminal activities of Hezbollah's are being carried out with the full knowledge and sponsorship of Syria, whose army is present in Lebanon," the statement said.

Ze'ev Schiff, analyst for the Israeli daily Ha'aretz, suggested that the Israeli attack was not just a response to last Friday's shelling, but to Syria's allowing Hezbollah to arm itself with new anti-aircraft missiles.

Defense Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer downplayed the prospects of war with Syria, saying Sunday, "Thank God, we are surrounded by countries that if they have anything in common, it is not to lead the Middle East into war."

But there are more limited steps that Syrian President Bashar Assad could take against Israel.

"Assad may react by opening a new front," said Eyal Zisser of Tel Aviv University. "He may try to ignite the Golan by allowing terrorist activities there."

Assad could also continue having Hezbollah act as its proxy.

Israeli security officials have in recent months warned of efforts by Hezbollah to build up a terrorist infrastructure within the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

There is hard evidence of growing ties between Hezbollah and its "sister" organizations in areas under Palestinian control, Hamas and the Islamic Jihad.

Now there are indications Hezbollah may be trying to widen its network by recruiting Israeli Arabs. As part of this effort, Hezbollah operatives may seek the help

MIDEAST FOCUS

Jet flights seen as warning

Israeli jets broke the sound barrier over Beirut on Monday, following an Israeli airstrike on a Syrian position in Lebanon and an exchange of cross-border fire with Hezbollah gunmen.

Witnesses heard sonic booms in Beirut, while others saw Israeli jets circling over the southern city of Tyre.

The supersonic flights, seen as a warning, came after a series of strikes and counterstrikes that began with a Hezbollah rocket attack last Friday that wounded two Israeli soldiers, one of them seriously.

Report: Israel tested missile

Israel carried out a secret launch of the Jericho II medium-range ballistic missile last week, according to the London-based Al Hayat newspaper.

The paper said the rocket is capable of hitting every Arab capital in the region.

Minister: Palestinians are lice

Israel's tourism minister referred to Palestinians working and living illegally in Israel as "lice" and a "cancer."

Speaking Monday on Israel's Army Radio, Rehavam Ze'evi said about 180,000 Palestinians are living in Israel illegally.

They "are trying to become citizens because they want social security and welfare payments," said Ze'evi.

In the past, Ze'evi has called for the expulsion of Arabs living in the Jewish state.

Israel, U.S. tied in corruption

Israel and the United States were ranked 16th in an international center's annual study of corruption in governments and institutions around the world.

In its review of 91 nations, the study by Transparency International (www.transparency.org) gave Finland the highest marks for clean practices.



Daily News Bulletin

Shoshana S. Cardin, *President*

Mark J. Joffe, *Executive Editor and Publisher*

Lisa Hostein, *Editor (on leave)*

Michael S. Arnold, *Managing Editor*

Lenore A. Silverstein, *Business Manager*

JTA DAILY NEWS BULLETIN is published five days a week, except holidays, by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Inc., 330 Seventh Ave., New York, N.Y. 10001-5010. For information about how to subscribe by e-mail, fax or regular mail, call (212) 643-1890, or visit our Web site at www.jta.org.
© JTA Reproduction only by previous arrangement.

of the Islamic Movement in Israel. The movement is a legal entity — and as such it would carefully steer away from any direct involvement with subversive activities.

However, it has never disguised its sympathy for Palestinian and Lebanese militant groups, and it has openly provided "humanitarian" aid to the needy families of deceased terrorists.

Leading members of the Islamic Movement — like Suleiman Aghbariya, the deputy mayor of Umm el-Fahm — have often been the target for police questioning regarding financial links between Hamas and the Islamic Movement.

After Israeli troops withdrew from southern Lebanon in May 2000 — which Hezbollah trumpeted as an unequivocal victory of its forces over the Jewish state — the fundamentalist movement needs a new banner to wave as it tries to recruit followers.

What better way is there, say Israeli analysts, than to revive the old slogan that the struggle will continue all the way to Jerusalem?

And what more efficient way to achieve this goal, they add, than by recruiting militant members of the Israeli Arab population, who can move freely throughout the Jewish state?

According to Israeli security officials, Hezbollah has already been recruiting Israeli Arabs with the goal of creating an infrastructure for terror attacks and kidnappings.

Cabinet minister Saleh Tarif — a Druse who is in charge of Arab affairs in the present government — warned in the Knesset last week not to blame the entire Arab population for the activities of a few.

His comments came after security officials revealed that more than 30 Israeli Arabs have been arrested since the beginning of the year on suspicion of belonging to terrorist organizations. Ten of them are suspected of having been recruited by Hezbollah, and the remaining 20 by Hamas. In the past few weeks, anonymous statements were issued by "Hezbollah-Palestine."

No one knows for sure whether there is such an organization — yet — or whether it was merely an attempt to scare.

Either way, Israeli officials are taking the issue very seriously. □

Brokerage house settles with worker who was forced to wear Nazi uniform

By Richard Allen Greene

LONDON (JTA) — A Jewish currency trader has settled a racial discrimination case against a London firm that ordered him to wear a Nazi uniform as a punishment for being late for work.

Laurent Weinberger settled June 25 with his former employer, Tullett & Tokyo Liberty — one day before the case was to be heard by an employment tribunal.

The terms of the deal were not made public, but a source close to the case said that Weinberger got a substantial settlement from Tullett & Tokyo.

Weinberger said he was "pleased with the outcome and relieved that this matter is over."

Weinberger, whose grandmother died at Auschwitz, was told to wear the uniform in May of 2000 after he came to work late. He also complained of having been called "Yiddo" and "Jew boy" by his manager and a colleague.

He said he was transferred to another department, with a pay cut, shortly after the Nazi uniform incident.

He resigned, alleging racial discrimination and unfair dismissal.

Tullett & Tokyo denied the charge of racial discrimination, but admitted that the incident involving the uniform took place and that it had been "wholly inappropriate."

The firm said that being made to wear costumes was a regular punishment for being late, and that the choice of costume often reflected an employee's ethnic background.

Officials said that the practice has been discontinued and that it "has taken positive steps to ensure that such an incident is not allowed to happen again."

The company denied that the Nazi uniform incident amounted to racial discrimination because Weinberger was not singled out for abuse based on his ethnic origin.

Weinberger's lawyer, Makbool Javaid, dismissed the defense as "ridiculous."

He told JTA it was "extraordinary that anyone would think it is funny in this day and age to ask someone Jewish to wear a Nazi uniform." □

JEWISH WORLD

U.S. truce effort near collapse as violence continues unabated

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israelis and Palestinians alike are rapidly losing all faith in the U.S.-brokered cease-fire that was supposed to put an end to more than nine months of violence.

On Monday — the worst day of violence since the cease-fire went into effect on June 13 — media reports in Israel and abroad were saying the truce was on the verge of collapse.

The deadly violence erupted only days after U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell left the region, having secured agreement from both sides on a timeline for advancing toward peace negotiations.

Under that agreement, a six-week cooling-off period was to begin after a full week passed without violence.

But soon after his diplomatic effort ended, it was hard to find a 24-hour period unscarred by violence.

On Monday, Palestinian gunmen shot and killed an Israeli.

Israeli police said the man had been killed while shopping at an open-air market within Israel proper, contradicting earlier reports that he had been shot on a West Bank road.

Earlier Monday, nine Israelis were treated for shock after two car bombs blew up in the Israeli town of Yehud, which is located near Ben-Gurion Airport.

One of the bombs was planted in the car of Yehud resident Smadar Steiner, who said she parked her car on the street the previous night and did not come down until after the explosion.

"All I can say is thank goodness I was not in the car, because it's usually a time that I'm in the car," she told Israel Radio.

"I could have come down a few minutes before the explosion. It could have ended differently."

She said the bombs went off at the time she usually takes her children to school — "which this morning I didn't do."

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine claimed responsibility for the car bombings, saying it was retaliating for an Israeli helicopter attack late Sunday in which three members of Islamic Jihad were killed.

Israeli security sources said the car the three were traveling in was packed with explosives that were going to be used in an attack against Israeli targets.

The U.S. State Department criticized what it described as "Israel's policy of targeted killings."

Though Israel does not formally admit to the assassinations, the Security Cabinet recently authorized the policy for Israel's "self-defense" after Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat refused to round up wanted terrorists.

One of the three terrorists killed in the helicopter attack was identified as Mohammed Bisharat, who was allegedly involved in planning several attacks that took place within Israel.

These attacks included the including recent terror bombings in the central Israeli cities of Netanya and Hadera.

He survived an Israeli attempt on his life several weeks ago, according to Palestinian officials.

There has been violence on a near-daily basis since the cease-fire was announced last month.

On Sunday, Israeli soldiers killed two members of Hamas who were planting roadside bombs near an Israeli army base in the West Bank, the army said.

Three other Palestinians escaped capture following a lengthy gun battle.

The same day, a bomb exploded near a busload of Israeli soldiers on their way to paratrooper boot camp in the West Bank, according to Israel Radio. No injuries were reported.

And in another incident Sunday, Palestinian gunmen opened fire on an Israeli bakery truck traveling on a West Bank road. The driver, a 26-year-old Israeli Arab, was lightly wounded in the leg. □

Swiss Jews rally for Israel

More than 500 members of Swiss Jewish youth groups held a rally Sunday night in Bern to show solidarity with Israel. The demonstrators called on the Swiss media to stop running stories about the Middle East crisis that have an anti-Israel bias.

Russian Jews fight missionaries

Jewish leaders in St. Petersburg are uniting against an intensified Jews for Jesus campaign.

The missionary campaign "exploits the ignorance of many Jews" and "is provoking statements and actions of an anti-Semitic character" from local extremists, according to a statement issued by the city's Jewish leaders.

Program aimed at Israel activism

A new program that seeks to strengthen pro-Israel activism on North American college campuses is sending 40 students to Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies this summer for a three-week seminar on Israel's role in the Middle East.

Emet: An Education Initiative, Inc. and Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life are coordinating the seminars, which will combine academic study with leadership training on Israel advocacy.

Anti-Semitic paper silenced

Officials in a city south of Moscow halted publication of the anti-Semitic newspaper *Russkaya Gazeta* and started a criminal case against the editors for fomenting ethnic hatred.

The action in the city of Tula came as Russian police are intensifying their actions to combat groups that foment hate, according to the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews.

Slovakia won't get involved

The Slovak government said it would not interfere in a dispute between Slovakia's Jewish community and Germany over compensation for the deportation of 58,000 Jews to Nazi concentration camps by the pro-Nazi wartime Slovak state.

In March, a Berlin court rejected a \$60 million lawsuit lodged by Jewish community leaders, ruling they were not entitled to claim compensation on behalf of the victims.

Germany sentences neo-Nazi

A German court sentenced a 72-year-old neo-Nazi to more than two years in jail.

The court in the northern city of Rostock sentenced Manfred Roeder last Friday for a series of anti-Semitic and racist comments he made at a 1998 meeting of the extreme right-wing National Democratic Party.

FOCUS ON ISSUES**Court move has created pain for groups that work with Boy Scouts***By Sharon Samber*

WASHINGTON (JTA) — It's been a year since the Supreme Court ruled that the Boy Scouts of America could exclude a gay scoutmaster because of his sexual orientation.

For many Jewish groups that work with the Boy Scouts — mainly Reform temples and Jewish community centers — the ensuing year has been marked by soul-searching, as they grappled with whether they should end their ties to the organization because of the organization's stance on gays.

"Most people are torn," said Alan Mann, senior vice president for JCC and Community Services at the Jewish Community Centers Association of North America.

Within the Jewish community, Orthodox groups supported the ruling, saying civic organizations should be empowered to determine their own message — but most Jewish organizations condemned it as endorsing discrimination.

"We are stunned that in the year 2000 the Supreme Court could issue such a decision," the Anti-Defamation League's national director, Abraham Foxman, and its national chairman, Howard Berkowitz, said in a statement a year ago.

"This decision effectively states that as long as an organization avows an anti-homosexual position, it is free to discriminate against gay and lesbian Americans."

In January, the Reform movement reacted against the high court ruling, issuing an advisory to those congregations that sponsor Boy Scout troops to sever their relations with the national scouting movement.

"It was a very difficult, wrenching decision," said Rabbi Daniel Polish, the director of the Joint Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism.

Parents whose children were not in Jewish-affiliated troops were urged to take their sons out of scouting as well.

There are approximately 280 Jewish scouting units, and about 30 Reform congregations and 25 JCCs are scouting charter members.

The momentum was slow but several congregations eventually suspended their connection with their troops, and three JCCs have given up their charters. Many sponsors, however, worked out arrangements to keep their troops.

"In most cases, the relationships are being maintained," said Rabbi Art Vernon, the vice chairman of the National Jewish Committee on Scouting, a subcommittee of the Boy Scouts.

For those congregations that were not able or willing to withdraw from the Boy Scouts, the commission recommended they amend their local charters to include an anti-discrimination clause, withdraw financial support from the scouts and encourage participation in other groups.

Temple Israel in St. Louis recently followed one of those recommendations.

It adopted a resolution that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in troops sponsored by the synagogue, but agreed to continue its sponsorship of Troop 54.

Rabbi Micah Greenstein of Temple Israel in Memphis, Tenn., wrote to his members in a synagogue bulletin to explain the congregation's position to keep its ties with its troop.

The synagogue board passed an anti-discrimination resolution and urged the Boy Scouts to re-evaluate its policy.

In addition, the temple's troop established a task force to develop a program to teach inclusion and nondiscrimination and pledged to work within the Boy Scouts to change the national organization's policy. That change doesn't appear to be likely.

On their Web site, Boy Scout officials say they make no effort to discover the sexual orientation of any person. "Scouting's message is, however, compromised when prospective leaders of youth present themselves as role models inconsistent with BSA standards," the site says.

"We believe an avowed homosexual is not a role model for the traditional moral values espoused in the Scout Oath and Law and homosexual conduct is inconsistent with the values we wish to instill."

As part of the scout oath participants pledge to be "morally straight."

Jewish groups weren't the only ones to react negatively to last June's high court ruling, said the JCCA's Mann.

Dozens of local United Way offices as well as corporations reportedly have stopped funding their Scout troops.

Conservative groups defend the organization's right to exercise its freedom of association in setting its own membership and leadership standards. They warn that had the high court ruled differently religious groups might be put at risk to be forced to accept people of other faiths into their organizations.

Some groups argue that the Boy Scouts is a public organization and so cannot discriminate in its hiring or membership practices.

An appeals court had found the Boy Scouts to be a place of public accommodation because it has broad-based membership solicitation and it has partnered with various public entities and public service organizations. About 60 percent of troops partner with churches.

Civil rights groups say the case opened the door for other groups that now might say they, too, deserve exemptions from anti-discrimination laws.

Some schools have tried to block Boy Scout meetings because of the organization's policy of discrimination against gays, but by law the Boy Scouts have the same right to meet in public schools as all other organizations.

The American Medical Association adopted a resolution stating that youth groups should lift bans on membership for gay youth because these bans contribute to anxiety and depression among gay youth and are bad public health policy.

Meanwhile, public debate over the Scouts continues even on the congressional level.

An amendment to the federal education bill calls for denying federal funds to schools or districts that discriminate in some way against the Boy Scouts of America.

That bill is wending its way through Congress. □

Project targets younger Jews

NEW YORK (JTA) — The largest Jewish student organization and a new national group that reaches out to Jews in their 20s and 30s are joining forces for a project in Miami and Seattle.

Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life and GeshetCity will train young adult lay leaders and offer other programs for young Jews. □