



# Daily News Bulletin

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84th Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Suicide bomber only fatality

A suicide bomber blew himself up outside David's Citadel Hotel in Jerusalem. The attack took place early Wednesday morning, lightly wounding at least eight people.

The terrorist, who was wearing a nail and metal-studded bomb for added deadly effect, was targeting Israeli government ministers, according to Islamic Jihad, which claimed responsibility for the attack.

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, Public Security Minister Uzi Landau and Religious Affairs Minister Asher Ohana were at the hotel at the time of the attack, Israel Radio reported.

### Geneva conference attacks Israel

An international conference told Israel to stop violating the rights of Palestinians.

At a one-day meeting in Switzerland on Wednesday of signatory states to the Fourth Geneva Convention, a final declaration called on Israel to "refrain from committing grave breaches" of the convention, including "willful killing, torture and unlawful deportation." [Page 3]

### House calls for pressing P.A.

The U.S. House of Representatives passed a resolution calling on President Bush to suspend relations with the Palestinian Authority if it does not arrest terrorists.

The Senate was expected to pass the resolution without debate either Wednesday night or Thursday.

The resolution also condemns the weekend's suicide attacks in Jerusalem and Haifa, and calls on the Palestinian Authority to destroy the infrastructure of terrorist groups and arrest terrorists. [Page 4]

### Brussels chief rabbi attacked

The chief rabbi of Brussels was attacked by five Arab men.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center protested Wednesday's attack on Rabbi Albert Guigui to Belgium's ambassador to the United States.

Rabbi Marvin Hier, the center's dean and founder, called the incident "an outrage against the Jewish community."

The five men reportedly called Guigui a "dirty Jew" in Arabic and kicked him in the face.

## FOCUS ON ISSUES

### In study, Reform takes stock of outreach to intermarrieds

By Julie Wiener

NEW YORK (JTA) — In a recent essay, Rabbi Jonathan Kraus writes how in the course of a week, one member complained to him that the synagogue was pressuring his non-Jewish wife to convert, while another said the congregation was doing too little to reach out to her non-Jewish husband.

"A rabbi who works with interfaith families walks a tightrope," Kraus, the spiritual leader of Beth El Temple Center, a Reform temple in suburban Boston, writes in the recently published "Guide to Jewish Interfaith Family Life."

"If I take the risk of asking non-Jewish partners whether they've ever thought about becoming Jewish, my inquiry may be received as a welcoming invitation or an offensive invasion of privacy."

Kraus' conundrum reflects an ambivalence in Reform Judaism, which is the largest stream of Judaism in the United States and has earned the reputation in the past 20 years as the movement most welcoming of intermarried families.

Reform's track record with interfaith families is explored in a study commissioned by the movement's Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

Reform congregations are doing a good job of making interfaith families feel welcome, finds the study, but are less effective at encouraging these families to "move along in their Jewish journey."

The study was released this week, on the eve of the UAHC's biennial conference in Boston, being held from Wednesday to Sunday.

The new study, based on interviews with rabbis and members of six synagogues in the Northeast and Southeast of the United States, highlights the successes and challenges of integrating intermarried families into synagogue life.

Dru Greenwood, the UAHC's director of outreach and synagogue affiliation, said she believes the study's findings are applicable beyond the East Coast. But she hopes to do future studies in the West, Southwest and Canada. Studies show that more Jews in the West and Southwest are intermarried than are those on the East Coast.

Among the findings of the study, conducted by researchers at Brandeis University's Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies:

- Intermarried families feel welcome, but congregations do not do enough to "move families along in their Jewish journey. A delicate balance needs to be struck between making non-Jewish members feel comfortable and welcome within the congregation and motivating them to try out new avenues of Jewish practice;"

- Rabbis play a critical role in determining whether intermarried families feel welcome, and their success at developing relationships with such families seems to be more important than whether they officiate at interfaith weddings;

- Synagogues have been unsuccessful at reaching young intermarried couples and young couples in general, particularly ones without school-age children;

- Jews by choice need more attention and mentoring after they have undergone conversion than they currently receive;

- Programs that specifically target intermarried families have declined in popularity, in part because intermarried families feel less isolated and more accepted than they did in the past. Parent education efforts that teach the basics of Judaism and do not single out intermarried families appear to be more successful;

- Many members view non-Jewish partners and partners who have converted to Judaism as a positive influence on the synagogue, with Jews by choice often serving "as

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Arafat gets breathing spell

Israel granted Yasser Arafat 12 hours to arrest terrorists in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In a series of telephone calls Wednesday between the Palestinian leader and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, Arafat complained that Israeli airstrikes were preventing him from making the arrests.

The strikes were halted after Peres and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon decided to give Arafat the breathing spell he'd requested.

### E.U. backs P.A. legitimacy

The European Union said it does not agree with Israel that the Palestinian Authority is a "terror-supporting entity."

One day after the Israeli Cabinet issued the designation, an E.U. spokesman said destabilizing the P.A. would not help stop the cycle of violence, and that Israel needed the P.A. as a peace partner.

The spokesman also said that the European Union had not decided whether to follow the U.S. lead and freeze the assets of groups or individuals connected to Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

### Fatah: Israel a 'terrorist entity'

Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement issued a statement Wednesday calling the Israeli government a "terrorist entity." The statement said "Palestinians have a legitimate right to resist the occupation" and "defend themselves."

### U.S.: Send in Jordanian troops

U.S. officials proposed sending Jordanian troops to the West Bank. The proposal was designed as a compromise for the Palestinians' repeated call for international monitors in the territories — a move Israel opposes, saying they would not be neutral.

According to Israel's Army Radio, the Palestinians responded to the proposal with caution.

an inspiration to the congregation at large;"

• Congregations are continuing to struggle with what ritual and leadership roles non-Jewish members can play — such as whether they can serve on the board or recite blessings at family life cycle events. Small congregations, which rely more heavily on volunteer participation, are more likely to allow non-Jews to assume such roles, with some even having non-Jewish members teach Hebrew school.

Greenwood said the study "confirms that the programs the UAHC has begun in the past few years are steps in the right direction."

She said she is pleased to learn that interfaith families feel comfortable in Reform synagogues, and hopes the study spurs more congregations to implement several new projects to engage families in their synagogues and offer more services for converts.

While the UAHC has no immediate plans to increase funding for expanded outreach efforts, it is encouraging synagogues to offer programs it has designed, such as educational programs for expectant parents and parents of newborns, as well as a program that trains congregants to mentor and welcome new converts.

The UAHC is also seeking to increase overall involvement of Jews in their 20s and 30s. This week's biennial included, for the first time, a special track for young Jews.

Rabbi Kerry Olitzky, executive director of the Jewish Outreach Institute, said he was heartened by the study's findings that interfaith families feel comfortable in Reform synagogues, especially since previous research has indicated that synagogues are "high-barrier institutions" and less likely to attract intermarried families than other Jewish programming.

He said the study also confirms anecdotal reports that outreach to intermarried families "has the potential to renew the synagogue from within and reach people that are already closer in."

Ed Case, publisher of *Interfaithfamily.com*, a Webzine for intermarried families, said he welcomed the UAHC study and hoped it would spur the UAHC to invest more money in training rabbis to welcome and engage intermarried families.

Case, who is intermarried and the member of a Reform synagogue in suburban Boston, said many of the findings — particularly about the central role rabbis can play and the positive influence interfaith families can have in congregations — echoed his observations at his own synagogue and things his readers have reported.

However, Case questioned whether a rabbi's refusal to officiate at intermarriages really, as the study indicates, does not affect the welcoming atmosphere of the synagogue.

"Many of the people in the study are parents of school-age children," he said. "I'm not sure if they were the same people who tried to find a rabbi to officiate at their wedding, couldn't find a rabbi and didn't ever come back."

Approximately 42 percent of Reform rabbis officiate at intermarriages, according to a 1999 survey by the Rabbinic Center for Research and Counseling, a group that helps interfaith couples find rabbis willing to marry them.

Orthodox and Conservative rabbis are forbidden from performing weddings between Jews and non-Jews. □

## Parents of injured child cannot sue JCC

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — A judge has dismissed a lawsuit filed by the parents of a 5-year old boy severely injured during a shooting rampage at a Jewish center here.

The attack in August 1999 by white supremacist Buford O. Furrow Jr. at the North Valley Jewish Community Center wounded five people, with Benjamin Kadish sustaining the most critical injuries.

Charles and Eleanor Kadish, the boy's parents, sued the Jewish center, alleging that it did not provide any security at a facility likely to be a target of anti-Semitic attacks.

Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge William MacLaughlin dismissed the suit Tuesday.

"I don't find what has been alleged so far" warrants a case, he said.

However, the Kadish parents can have 20 days to amend their lawsuit to address legal weaknesses in the case, MacLaughlin ruled.

Furrow is serving a lifetime sentence, without possibility of parole, for the Jewish center attack and the killing of a mail carrier. □



## Daily News Bulletin

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## JEWISH WORLD

### Muslim groups: Unfreeze assets

U.S. Muslim groups want the United States to unfreeze the assets of a charity accused of funding Hamas terrorists. The groups said in a joint statement that shutting down the Texas-based Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development is "unjust and counterproductive."

The statement said the move "could create the impression that there has been a shift from a war on terrorism to an attack on Islam." On Tuesday, Bush also froze the assets of two groups based in Palestinian-controlled areas, the Al Aqsa International Bank and the Beit El-Mal Holdings Company.

In a related development, Canada's finance minister, Paul Martin, announced Wednesday that Canada also would freeze the three groups' assets.

### Fear shuts Russian school

Russian Jews in the city of Saratov are too worried about anti-Semitism to open a Sunday school there. A Jewish official recently was quoted in the media as saying that Jewish life in the central Russian city has become unsafe. In the most recent incident, more than 60 Jewish gravestones in the city were destroyed last month.

### France to host Shoah conference

French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin announced plans to organize an international conference on the Holocaust. In a speech to French Jewish leaders Saturday, Jospin also stated that he will use the occasion of the conference, scheduled for October 2002, to inaugurate a program for dedicating one day in each school year to the memory of the Holocaust and to the prevention of crimes against humanity.

### Rome officials show solidarity

Rome officials showed solidarity with the Israeli victims of terrorism. The officials demonstrated their support by turning off the lights of the historic Campidoglio city hall for 15 minutes Tuesday evening.

City officials also observed a minute of silence that day at noon.

Rome Mayor Walter Veltroni attended a solidarity vigil organized by the Rome Jewish community at the city's main synagogue Tuesday night.

### Russian Jews hit the books

The release of a Russian translation of a volume of Talmud highlighted this week's Jewish book festival in Moscow.

The translation was done by a Jerusalem-based institute headed by Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz, who spoke at the forum. The weeklong event is the fourth annual festival sponsored by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

## Geneva Convention targets Israel as 'occupying power'

By Rachel Pomerance

NEW YORK (JTA) — Jewish observers at an international meeting in Geneva to scrutinize Israel's treatment of the Palestinians were saddened but not surprised by the decision to brand Israel "an occupying power."

"It's a quiet crime," Sybil Kessler, a policy associate for Hadassah's division of Israel, Zionist and international affairs, said of the reconvening of the Fourth Geneva Convention on Wednesday.

"Very diplomatically, very quietly, 140 countries have convened and left just to reinforce the fact that the international community still doesn't accept Israel on the same playing field as the rest of world," Kessler told JTA by telephone from Geneva. "It leaves us extremely saddened and disheartened — and even after a weekend like we've had," she said, referring to 25 Israelis killed in bombings in Jerusalem and Haifa.

In a symbolic declaration, signatory states called on Israel to "refrain from committing grave breaches" of the convention, including "willful killing, torture, unlawful deportation," "collective penalties" and "unjustified restrictions of free movement."

The convention, which focuses on the "protection of civilian persons in time of war," was established in response to Nazi atrocities committed against civilians — primarily Jews — in territories they occupied.

Every country is a signatory, but member states have met only once before in the half-century since the convention was signed.

That meeting was on July 15, 1999, at the behest of the Arab world, to scrutinize Israeli treatment of Palestinians in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and eastern Jerusalem. Boycotted by Israel and the United States, that meeting was adjourned after only 17 minutes.

It convened again this week without Israeli, American or Australian representation.

The meeting came on the heels of another attack on Israel by the U.N. General Assembly on Monday. The assembly passed four resolutions relating to Israeli-Palestinian relations. One backed Palestinian rights to an independent state, based on the principle of trading land for peace.

Wednesday's meeting came three months after a U.N. conference on racism in South Africa, painted Israel as the worst offender in the world on human rights issues.

Andrew Srulevitch, executive director of U.N. Watch, a Geneva-based group affiliated with the American Jewish Committee, said the "politicization of humanitarian and human rights institutions by Arab states to attack Israel is nothing new." But he said the declaration issued in Geneva "sets a very dangerous precedent for the abuse of humanitarian law to single out one country." He noted that the convention never has been applied to humanitarian concerns in other areas of the world.

The real clue to understanding the event in Geneva was Tuesday's accompanying conference of nongovernmental organizations, which systematically excluded Jewish groups. Organized by two Palestinian organizations, the NGO conference was not under U.N. auspices, but was "purportedly an open conference," Srulevitch said.

When he arrived, however, Srulevitch was told that the meeting was "closed to NGOs who do not accept the application of humanitarian law in the occupied territories." Also turned away were members of other Jewish organizations, including Hadassah, B'nai B'rith and the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

Srulevitch called the NGO conference "pathetic," with about 20 organizations represented, including two officials from the Palestinian Authority.

More egregious, he said, was the coordination between the NGOs and the U.N. High Commissioner of Human Rights, Mary Robinson, who postponed a follow up meeting to the Durban conference to accommodate a pro-Palestinian demonstration against Israel. That rings of bias, Srulevitch said.

Fewer than 100 people attended that demonstration, Jewish observers said, while two pro-Israel demonstrations by Swiss students drew more than 40 people.

Meanwhile, approximately 180 faculty and students from the Rambam Mesivta, a New York-area yeshiva, protested the convention at a rally Wednesday across the street from the Swiss Consulate in New York. □

## House blasts Arafat on terror, says Bush should reconsider ties

By Matthew E. Berger

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Lawmakers are calling on President Bush to suspend relations with the Palestinian Authority if P.A. President Yasser Arafat does not take concerted action to fight terrorism.

The House of Representatives passed the resolution — which is symbolic — Wednesday condemning last weekend's terror bombings in Israel by a vote of 384-11.

"This Congress and the American people are angry, frustrated and fed up with Arafat's cynical support of murderers and failure to act against the killing of Israelis and Palestinians," said Rep. Tom Lantos (D-Calif.), the ranking minority member of the House International Relations Committee. "Until he does end the terror, and end it for good, we must conclude he supports it."

The legislation condemns last weekend's suicide bombings in Jerusalem and Haifa that killed 25 people and wounded approximately 300.

It also demands that the Palestinian Authority destroy the infrastructure of Palestinian terrorist groups, arrest terrorists and either prosecute them or extradite them to Israel for prosecution.

The bill, which has 54 co-sponsors in the House, also calls for solidarity with Israel.

"Attention must be paid to what is going on in Israel," said Rep. Henry Hyde (R-Ill.), who asked whether people could empathize with a mother who fears her child will not come home from school with all his limbs. "It is a hellish way to live."

Lawmakers said Arafat is not doing enough to thwart terrorism and questioned whether he even is able to control the terrorist groups operating from his territory.

"If he can not control the terror, he has to stop pretending he can make peace and we need to look for other peace partners," Rep. Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.) said.

"The United States can not work during the day with Palestinian leaders on the 'peace of the brave,' — Arafat's favorite turn of phrase — "when in the evening they turn a blind eye to the shooting, bombing and mayhem," said Rep. Gary Ackerman (D-N.Y.).

Numerous legislators drew comparisons between the terrorism in Israel and the Sept. 11 terror attacks on New York and Washington.

"Israel and the United States are both victims of terrible acts of terrorism, and in that co-victimhood, we attempt to show solidarity," said Hyde, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee and co-sponsor of the bill with Lantos.

Rep. Elliot Engel (D-N.Y.) said it is fair to hold Arafat responsible for terrorism — just as the United States holds the Taliban in Afghanistan responsible for the actions of Al Qaida — because both the P.A. and the Taliban have declined to take action against terrorists in their lands.

Yet debate became heated at times as a vocal minority criticized Israel and accused the House of bias.

Israel's targeting of Arafat's helicopters and offices was the act of "bullies," Rep. Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.) said.

"Getting Arafat is no solution," Rahall said. "Continued humiliation is no solution."

Some lawmakers, even among those voting for the resolution,

suggested Congress is taking a side in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict because resolutions are not proposed when Palestinians are killed.

"Whenever there is an act of terror we need to step forward, and we haven't done it when the Palestinians are the victims," said Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-Calif.). He accused his colleagues of giving "blanket approval for everything Israel does."

Rep. Darrell Issa (R-Calif.) said the resolution, which he voted for, unfairly targets the Palestinian Authority, not the terrorist groups responsible for the bombings.

Rep. Ron Paul (R-Texas) suggested that U.S. aid to both Israel and the Palestinians be revoked while the countries are fighting.

"We should start off de-funding both sides," Paul said. "We are in a way an accomplice on this because we fund both sides."

Members of Congress have proposed numerous bills this year calling on President Bush to take action against the Palestinians, such as cutting off nonhumanitarian aid to the Palestinians, restricting Palestinian leaders' travel and downgrading the Palestine Liberation Organization's office in Washington. No sanctions were suggested in Wednesday's bill.

Still, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee applauded the debate.

"This resolution clearly shows that in Congress there is a feeling that Arafat has reached the end of the line," said Howard Kohr, AIPAC's executive director. "If he does not act against these terrorists that regularly attack Israelis, he forfeits his relationship with America and demonstrates he is on the wrong side of the war against terrorism."

A similar bill, sponsored by Sens. Joseph Biden (D-Del.) and Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), is expected to pass the Senate on Wednesday night or Thursday without debate, by unanimous consent.

"The world demands that Chairman Arafat crack down on the organizations that harbor and support these terrorists," Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-S.D.) said Wednesday on the Senate floor. World patience for the Palestinian leader has ended, he added. □

## Neo-Nazis sue Jewish leaders

BERLIN (JTA) — German Jewish leaders and local neo-Nazi face legal problems following one of the largest neo-Nazi marches in Berlin since World War II.

The far-right National Democratic Party of Germany announced it had filed a complaint against Anetta Kahane, a member of the board of Berlin's Jewish community, whom the group accused of having encouraged criminal acts by calling for a blockade against the march.

Some 17 neo-Nazis and 13 counter-demonstrators were arrested in violence related to the march, which observers say was the largest such gathering in postwar Berlin.

The neo-Nazi party also accused Berlin Rabbi Chaim Rozwaki of "insulting" them by calling party members "inhuman brutes."

Meanwhile, Berlin police director Gernot Piestert told reporters that the right-wing party is facing legal problems. March organizers reportedly refused to end the event at the prearranged time.

In addition, they sang an illegal stanza from the German national anthem, whose famous words include "Deutschland uber alles," or "Germany above all." Piestert vowed to "apply the appropriate punishments" against the neo-Nazis. □