



# Daily News Bulletin

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85th Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Shooting spree in Jerusalem

A Palestinian terrorist opened fire in downtown Jerusalem Tuesday, wounding 46 people, six of them seriously, before being shot and killed by police.

The attack came hours after Israeli troops killed four prominent Hamas terrorists in a raid in Nablus. [Page 3]

### JDL defendants plead innocent

Two members of the Jewish Defense League pleaded innocent to U.S. federal charges. JDL Chairman Irv Rubin, 56, and Earl Krugel, 59, were brought into a Los Angeles court in shackles Tuesday for their arraignment.

They pleaded not guilty to charges they had plotted to bomb a Southern California mosque and a U.S. congressman's office. Their trial was scheduled for March 19.

### Conservative rabbis tap Israeli

The Conservative movement's rabbinic arm is to be headed by an Israeli for the first time. The Rabbinical Assembly, which represents approximately 1,500 Conservative rabbis, mostly in the United States, will name Rabbi Reuven Hammer president at its convention next month in Washington.

Hammer was one of the rabbis involved in the 1998 Ne'eman Commission, a group that sought to find a way for non-Orthodox rabbis to perform conversions in Israel that would be recognized by the government.

### U.S.: Peace envoy won't resign

The State Department said reports that the U.S. peace envoy to the Middle East will resign are "absolutely unfounded." State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said Tuesday that Anthony Zinni will speak with Secretary of State Colin Powell and then agree on an "appropriate and useful" time to return to the Middle East.

The Qatar-based Al Jazeera television station reported that Zinni had asked to end his peace mission because he cannot trust Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat.

The report said Zinni had asked National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice to be relieved of his posting because he does not feel his return to the region would result in any progress.

## NEWS ANALYSIS

### As Clinton returns to Israel, it's clear how Yasser Arafat's status has fallen

By David Landau

JERUSALEM (JTA) — What a difference a year makes.

A little more than a year ago, President Clinton detailed a Mideast peace plan that included deep Israeli concessions and reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians.

This week, as Clinton visited Israel for the first time since leaving office, the vision of a "New Middle East" that developed under his watch appeared little more than a pipe dream.

During the past 12 months, Prime Minister Ehud Barak was tossed out of office in Israel and has retired from politics. Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat remains in power but is under virtual house arrest in Ramallah, his office ringed by Israeli tanks.

Lately, Israelis see signs that the U.S. administration that succeeded Clinton's is moving toward the conclusion that Arafat is indeed "irrelevant," as the Israeli government recently declared.

If so, it's unclear what that would mean for a future Palestinian leadership, and for that regime's relations with America and Israel.

The evidence of a policy shift by the Bush administration toward Arafat still is largely circumstantial. Indeed, the most that can be said with assurance is that the policy is still shifting and has not yet reached a definitive position.

The signals of an American shift include:

- Qatar-based Al Jazeera television reported Tuesday that the Bush administration's envoy to the Middle East, retired Gen. Anthony Zinni, has asked to end his mission brokering a cease-fire between Israel and the Palestinians.

The information came from Western sources, the station reported, adding that Zinni asked U.S. national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice, to be relieved of his mission because he cannot trust Arafat and does not feel his return to the region will result in any progress.

State Department Spokesman Richard Boucher said that the report was completely unfounded, but added that no new date was set for Zinni to return to the region.

Even before Tuesday's Al Jazeera report, the word in Washington was that senior members of the Bush team believed the chances to reduce violence were so slim that it was not worth sending Zinni back to the region for a third round of shuttle diplomacy.

Even if it's not accompanied by explicit criticism, declining to send Zinni would essentially confirm that the Bush administration "has had it with Arafat," as Sharon confidants say. The Palestinians have demanded that Zinni return to the region as soon as possible. In contrast, Sharon told visiting American Israel Public Affairs Committee leaders last weekend that sending Zinni would show Arafat that he can avoid moving forcefully against terrorist groups yet still court the United States as Israel's putative negotiating partner.

- The United States conspicuously avoided criticizing recent Israeli military moves, including deep incursions into the West Bank cities of Tulkarm on Monday and Nablus on Tuesday. While the Nablus action was based on pinpoint intelligence and aimed at ranking Hamas terrorists — four were shot dead and a bomb factory destroyed — the incursion into Tulkarm seemed as much a demonstration of Israel's dominance as a specific policing measure.

As such, the Tulkarm raid was bound to further weaken Arafat's prestige in the Palestinian Authority, possibly hastening his fall from power. There was a spate of

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Protesters storm Nablus prison

Palestinian police shot and killed a Palestinian man during a clash with protesters.

Tuesday's clash erupted when some 600 protesters, many of them supporters of the militant Hamas group, burst into the main prison in Nablus to demand the release of jailed militants.

The protesters threw stones and empty bottles at policemen and burned three police vehicles. Abdel Nasser Swaffah, 37, died from head wounds sustained in the confrontation.

### Israeli to head Argentine bank

An Argentine-born Israeli was named governor of Argentina's central bank.

Mario Blejer, who was born in Argentina and immigrated to Israel in 1968, was named deputy head of the bank in August, following a crisis over cuts in salaries and pensions. He was appointed governor of the bank last week, after his predecessor's resignation.

A financial figure who has worked with the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, Blejer is believed to have been chosen because of his connections with the IMF and the Bush administration, according to the Israeli daily Ha'aretz.

### Israeli, P.A. speakers to meet

Israel's Knesset speaker is expected to meet with his Palestinian counterpart in Paris.

Avraham Burg and Ahmed Karia are due to appear Wednesday before members of the French National Assembly at a symposium on ways to restart the Middle East peace process.

During the meeting, Karia is expected to invite Burg to appear before the Palestinian legislative council in Ramallah.

The conciliatory initiative was criticized by right-wing Israeli lawmakers and sowed new tensions in Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's coalition.

reports here over the weekend — vigorously denied on the Palestinian side — that Arafat was considering resigning or voluntarily going into exile in Tunisia.

- When Israel retaliated for last week's terror attack on a Bat Mitzvah in Hadera by bombing a Palestinian police station in Tulkarm, President Bush did not criticize Israel but restated his support for the Jewish state's right of self-defense. The Bush administration appears to remain unmoved by the spectacle of Israeli tanks outside Arafat's office in Ramallah, and by the sight of them storming into Tulkarm and Nablus.

- The Israel Defense Force's destruction of the Voice of Palestine radio in Ramallah was another step to weaken Arafat by smashing the symbols of his rule. Despite outspoken reservations in Europe, the Bush administration again looked on in silence. For many key figures in the Israeli government and army, this silence is interpreted as a "green light" of approval to chip away at Arafat until he topples.

- Even Clinton, the president who invested so much in bolstering Arafat, added to the veteran Palestinian leader's alienation this week. In an emotion-laden two-day visit to Israel, Clinton did not schedule any meeting with Arafat, and reportedly even declined to speak with him by telephone.

Accepting an honorary doctorate from Tel Aviv University, Clinton accused Arafat of "missing a golden opportunity" for peace at the Camp David summit in July 2000, and dismissed the subsequent intifada violence as "a terrible mistake."

Mobbed by well-wishers wherever he went, Clinton urged his Israeli audiences not to give up hope of a miraculous return to the peace process, but he seemed to hold out little hope that, if negotiations did somehow resume, it would be Arafat sitting opposite the Israelis.

If Arafat eventually does succumb to mounting Israeli military pressure and declining American support, what then?

Optimists here and in Washington believe power in the Palestinian Authority could pass relatively smoothly to another member of the present leadership. That could be one of the older generation of Arafat lieutenants such as his deputy Mahmoud Abbas, or one of the younger generation of security officials such as Jibril Rajoub or Mohammad Dahlan. But many experts call this scenario wishful thinking. More likely, they say, is that power would fragment in the Palestinian territories, strengthening the radical and fundamentalist factions.

One can assume that American policymakers contemplating the prospect of Arafat's departure are applying their minds, too, to what comes next. □

## Czechs may give heirs more time to claim Nazi-confiscated artwork

By Magnus Bennett

PRAGUE (JTA) — Jews across the world may be granted unlimited time to claim works of art confiscated by the Nazis that are now in Czech hands.

Deputy Prime Minister Pavel Rychetsky said recently he would submit to the Czech Cabinet an amendment to the current law, which expires at the end of this year, with the goal of pushing the new law through Parliament before the summer recess.

A special government commission set up two years ago has identified thousands of paintings and art objects in the hands of state galleries and museums across the Czech Republic that belonged to Jews before World War II. They include works by Gustav Klimt and Auguste Renoir.

Lobbying by the Czech Federation of Jewish Communities, which argued that more time was needed for the claims process, convinced the government to consider amending the law, which was passed in 2000.

Tomas Kraus, executive director of the Federation, welcomed the move.

The search for works of art in museums and galleries has not been completed, and there still are many people who don't realize they can ask for the return of such property, he said. It also has been very difficult for foreign citizens to find relevant documents in support of their claims.

Kraus said the claims process has become more difficult as some museums and galleries refuse to hand over works because they have papers showing the art had been donated to them. During the war, however, any such statement would have been written under pressure, Kraus said. □



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## JEWISH WORLD

### Europe to commemorate Shoah

Several European countries plan to mark Holocaust Memorial Day on Sunday.

Cultural, commemorative and educational events are planned on or around Jan. 27, which marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz in 1945.

In Italy, events range from films to concerts, from round-table discussions to exhibitions.

In London, Mayor Ken Livingstone will lead a ceremony Wednesday to remember the kindertransports, in which some 10,000 children arrived in London from Nazi Germany in 1938-1939.

### Russian city gets Torah scroll

A Torah scroll was given to a Jewish congregation in the Russian city of Samara.

The scroll is a gift to the city from the family of Dov-Ber Rabinovich, a Jerusalem rabbi.

The scroll was handed over Sunday to the community by one of Russia's chief rabbis, Berel Lazar. Some 15,000 Jews live in the central Russian city.

### Teens charged in cemetery crime

Czech police charged two 16-year-old boys with racial hate crimes. The charges were issued after police seized a videotape that showed a group of young people attacking gravestones at a Jewish cemetery in a Prague suburb last fall.

Police said a group of youths aged between 14 and 16 filmed themselves damaging more than 50 gravestones, giving Nazi salutes and chanting anti-Jewish slogans.

Five others who appeared on the tape could not be charged because they were underage.

### Russian Jewish leader sued

An extremist newspaper in Russia is suing a Jewish leader. The newspaper, the Russian Community of Yekaterinburg, accuses Mikhail Oshtrakh for allegedly damaging the newspaper editor's "business reputation," according to the Union of Councils for Jews in the Former Soviet Union.

On the urging of Oshtrakh and other minority leaders in the region, officials launched an investigation against the paper for publishing articles that allegedly incite ethnic hatred.

### Local ADL leader dies

A. Abbot Rosen, who headed the Anti-Defamation League's Midwest Region for 38 years, died over the weekend at 86. Rosen is best known for his role in battling a group of neo-Nazis who marched in Skokie, Ill., in the late 1970s.

He also was known for his commitment to the civil rights movement and for his work in interfaith dialogue.

## Palestinian with machine gun terrorizes downtown Jerusalem

By Naomi Segal and Jessica Steinberg

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The terrorist ran out of a covered passageway located between a clothing shop and a discount drugstore on Jerusalem's Jaffa Road.

This portion of Jaffa, located near King George Street and Zion Square, is lined with shoe stores and inexpensive clothing shops. Sbarro's, the pizzeria that was the scene of last summer's deadly suicide bombing, is just down the block.

Every day, the street is filled with pedestrians shopping for shoes, perusing the selection of candy in the Elite chocolate shop or waiting for buses at one of several stops along the street.

The Ben Yehuda pedestrian mall, where 11 teen-agers were killed in a double suicide bombing in December, also is accessible from this part of Jaffa Road.

In short, when the terrorist came running out of the alley Tuesday with an M-16 assault rifle, he had a street full of possible victims.

He opened fired in all directions, wounding 46 people, six of them seriously, before being shot and killed by police.

The attack came shortly after the head of army intelligence warned that Israelis must brace for an unprecedented wave of terror.

The Al-Aksa Brigade, a militia of Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's Fatah Party, claimed responsibility for the attack.

The United States condemned the attack.

"There's no justification for these kinds of attacks; they only kill innocent people," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said. "Once again, we call upon Chairman Arafat to take immediate and effective steps to end attacks such as these and bring those responsible to justice."

The attack came hours after Israeli troops killed four prominent Hamas terrorists in a raid in Nablus.

Four Israeli soldiers were lightly wounded in the operation, in which Israel uncovered and destroyed an explosives laboratory.

Hamas vowed a "brutal revenge" for the Israeli operation. Yet analysts noted that Tuesday's attack was believed to be the first time Arafat's Fatah has retaliated for an Israeli attack on Hamas.

Earlier Tuesday, Israeli troops pulled out of Tulkarm a day after taking over the West Bank city in a sweep aimed at Palestinian terrorists. The incursion into Tulkarm marked the first time since the outbreak of the Palestinian uprising in September 2000 that Israel took over an entire city.

Israeli officials said they launched the incursion because Arafat was not doing anything to crack down on terrorists.

Some 50 Palestinians were detained, including 11 wanted terrorists, during the 30-hour takeover, Israel's Army Radio reported.

The incursion took place days after a Palestinian from Tulkarm opened fire at a Bat Mitzvah in the northern Israeli city of Hadera, killing six Israelis and wounding more than 30.

On Tuesday, the head of army intelligence predicted there would be more terror attacks, at least until the end of the formal mourning period for Karmi.

Addressing the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Maj. Gen. Aharon Ze'evi also charged that Arafat is not prepared to end the conflict with Israel even if Israel agrees to all the demands Arafat put forth in previous negotiations.

He also said U.S. officials view Arafat as a "lost cause," but still consider him the only partner at present for a potential dialogue with Israel.

The Jerusalem shooting attack occurred at the height of the evening rush hour. Police stationed in the area as part of a heightened security alert spotted the gunman and gave chase.

Jerusalem Police Chief Mickey Levy said the quick police response prevented a greater number of casualties.

Before police ended the terrorist's shooting spree, he shot out the store window of X-Boy, a trendy clothing store whose display is covered in furry, black-and-white zebra material. □

## Funders Network plans expansion, partnerships, new ethos of giving

By Julie Wiener

NEW YORK (JTA) — Jewish philanthropists, watch out. Mark Charendoff wants you to write larger checks.

But unlike the hundreds of others vying for a piece of the Jewish pocketbook, Charendoff, the new executive director of the Jewish Funders Network, doesn't actually want donors' money.

Instead, he sees his 11-year-old organization, which is expanding in size this spring and opening its first Israel office, as a neutral advocate urging Jewish donors to "fund more and fund better."

Before joining JFN in September, Charendoff was vice president of the Andrea and Charles Bronfman Philanthropies, one of the largest Jewish foundations in the world.

JFN is "in a unique position because we're not seeking funds," Charendoff said. "We don't have any affiliations to any nonprofits, so we can be honest brokers."

JFN is preparing to dramatically expand, both in North America and internationally. With more than \$2 million in "capacity building" funds collected since Sept. 11, the group has doubled its operating budget, and it wants to increase membership, influence and services.

The funders group, which will hold its annual conference in Houston in March, sees its expanded role as four-fold:

- Serving as a "virtual staff" to Jewish family foundations, the majority of which are too small to hire professionals. JFN consultants will help foundations with such things as strategic planning, evaluation, crafting mission statements and planning retreats.
- Educating donors about needs, trends and opportunities in the field, as well as ways of being more effective or strategic in their giving.
- Creating and facilitating partnerships in specific funding areas.
- Advocating for increased giving, as well as "more effective, thoughtful and ethical Jewish philanthropy."

Approximately 900 people from over 300 foundations currently are JFN members.

Until now, members of the group, which was founded by a handful of left-leaning philanthropists, were recruited mainly through word of mouth. But the JFN plans to market itself more aggressively.

Despite the recession, there is a vast untapped market of people to target. The number of Jewish family foundations and endowments has grown in recent years. In fact, Charendoff estimates they have more than doubled in the past five years, and he puts their assets at \$25 billion.

Only a fraction of that money is allocated each year, however, and less than half of it goes to Jewish causes.

Nonetheless, 6,814 U.S. foundations list Jewish causes as one of their funding interests. An estimated 250 Jewish family foundations in the United States each give away \$200,000 or more each year to Jewish causes, totaling slightly under \$250 million a year.

Some estimate that foundation giving to Jewish causes soon will eclipse Jewish federation campaigns. Already, many major initiatives in the Jewish community — such as Birthright Israel, the program sending young people on free trips to Israel — have been launched out of partnerships among private foundations rather than

federations. The federation system and the Israeli government subsequently joined Birthright, becoming three-part partners.

Some federations once saw the independent funds as a threat to their communally allocated campaigns. Now, as the foundations' clout grows, their ties with federations appear to be growing closer, and the boundaries between the two are blurring.

Many Jewish foundations that are JFN members are Jewish federation "supporting foundations." That means that the family decides how to allocate funds, but the federation manages the assets and provides other staff support.

A professional from Cleveland's Jewish federation sits on JFN's board. And when Charles Bronfman — Charendoff's former boss and a major player in the Jewish foundation world — recently stepped down as chairman of the federation system's United Jewish Communities, he called in his parting speech for more partnerships between federations and foundations.

"We have a good relationship with federations in general and the folks at UJC," Charendoff said. "Not only are we not competing, but I've taken a strong stand with members that being a responsible philanthropist also means supporting your local federation."

Stephen Hoffman, president and CEO of the UJC, said he views JFN not as competition but as a "partner" that "can only help Jewish donors in making thoughtful decisions about how to help the Jewish community grow."

In addition to the growing number of North American Jewish foundations, Israel's philanthropic sector also is growing.

JFN hopes the Jerusalem office it is opening this spring will assist Israeli funders, forge partnerships between Israeli donors and Diaspora ones, enable the network to provide Diaspora funders with more information about Israeli projects and serve as a base for working with European Jewish philanthropists.

On the advocacy front, the JFN is urging foundations to allocate more than the 5 percent of assets the U.S. government requires of them. While many foundations automatically give away 5 percent of their assets, "It's no averah" — a Hebrew word for sin — "to give away 7, 8 or 10 percent," Charendoff said.

JFN also is questioning the assumption that money should be kept in a permanent trust in which the principle is never touched, allowing programs to be funded indefinitely.

In contrast, "spending down" means that the bulk of the money gets used now, rather than sitting in the bank. If foundations doubled their allocations, "this could change the economy of the Jewish world, certainly in North America," Charendoff said.

Jack Wertheimer, provost of the Conservative movement's Jewish Theological Seminary, recently wrote a paper estimating that the field of Jewish education needs more than \$2.5 billion if it is to stem high rates of assimilation. He welcomed the call to spend down trusts.

"Given the enormous needs of the present and given the very serious challenges that go under the rubric of Jewish continuity," he asked, "does it really make sense for the Jewish community to put so much of its resources into endowments when the needs are so pressing now and we don't even know if there will be Jews who need these resources down the road?"

The UJC's Hoffman said the Jewish community needs both long-term endowments for the future and major cash infusions for the present. "Some areas cry out for huge investments probably far beyond the 5 percent target," he said. "At the same time, I'd like to know there will be big foundations around later." □