



# Daily News Bulletin

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85th Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Israeli dies after shooting attack

A police officer died of wounds she sustained in a Palestinian shooting attack Monday in northern Jerusalem.

Galit Arbiv, 21, was buried Tuesday — as were Avraham Fish, 65 and Aharon Gorov, 46, who were killed in a terrorist ambush Monday south of Bethlehem.

### Security talks resume

Israel and the Palestinians resumed security talks. Israeli officials had no comment about what was discussed at Tuesday's meeting in Tel Aviv.

### JAFI sets up victims fund

The Jewish Agency for Israel created a fund for the victims of terror in Israel.

The fund is being established in partnership with Jewish communities throughout the world as a response to ongoing Palestinian violence. The fund will assist Israeli citizens, especially new immigrants, who fall victim to terror.

### Peres: France not anti-Semitic

Shimon Peres downplayed French Jews' fears that their government is not doing enough to combat anti-Semitism. "I am certain that France is not anti-Semitic, neither historically nor currently," the Israeli foreign minister told reporters after a meeting Tuesday in Paris with French President Jacques Chirac. "I am convinced the French leadership is staging a serious and determined battle against anti-Semitism in France."

Confronted with an epidemic of anti-Jewish attacks, French Jewish groups for months have been calling for a strong response from the government. Observers have pointed out that this is an election year in France, where Muslims outnumber Jews by about 10-1.

### Haifa attack thwarted

Israeli police arrested an armed Palestinian in Haifa.

A police officer and civil volunteer detained the Palestinian, a resident of a West Bank refugee camp, in downtown Haifa on Tuesday after police received warnings of an imminent attack. His bag contained an assault rifle and ammunition.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES

### Israel, U.S. welcome Saudi plan, but first want to see more details

By Matthew E. Berger

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Both Israel and the United States are giving a cautious welcome to an initiative for Arab-Israeli peace from Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah.

Essentially an extension of the land-for-peace principle that has guided Arab-Israeli peacemaking for years, the plan calls for the Arab world to recognize Israel and offer diplomatic relations, economic ties and security guarantees in exchange for a complete Israeli withdrawal from all territories won in the 1967 Six-Day War.

The ideas are similar to those that were voiced in recent months by Jordan's king, Abdullah II.

The Saudi plan was contained in a speech Crown Prince Abdullah told New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman he had considered delivering but then decided not to, allegedly because of Israeli actions toward the Palestinians.

Still, the Saudis authorized Friedman to print the interview with the crown prince, and then circulated the accounts in the Saudi media. As such, the "nonproposal" has taken on a life of its own, and officials at the U.S. State Department say they consider it Saudi policy.

"I think it's an important step that we have welcomed," Secretary of State Colin Powell said Monday, adding that he hoped "that in the weeks ahead, it'll be flushed out in greater detail."

Israeli officials — particularly Foreign Minister Shimon Peres — reacted with interest to the Saudi plan. President Moshe Katsav said he was prepared to go to Saudi Arabia to discuss the plan, but the Saudis immediately rejected the idea.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon confirmed that he had taken "several steps" to learn more about the initiative, but did not elaborate.

Israel Radio reported that Sharon was making inquiries through several channels, including the United States. The report said he was interested in learning the details through either open or secret contacts with the crown prince or a trustworthy representative.

European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana was to hold talks Wednesday with Abdullah after the Palestinians and some Israeli officials responded positively to the Saudi initiative, an E.U. official said Tuesday.

After Friedman's column appeared, another New York Times piece by Henry Siegman, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, fleshed out the plan, noting that it would not preclude Israeli sovereignty over some neighborhoods in eastern Jerusalem and land transfers that would bring some West Bank settlement areas under Israeli sovereignty.

Analysts say that a commitment from Arab countries to normalize relations with Israel if an Israeli-Palestinian deal is signed can help the parties focus on the big picture.

"Coming from Saudi Arabia, which has a distinct leadership position in the Arab world, it raises the profile of the concepts contained within the plan and perhaps creates a new opportunity for the United States to get behind a viable peace plan," said Lewis Roth, assistant executive director of Americans for Peace Now.

It remains unclear whether the initiative ever will be formally drafted or proposed. As long as they don't formally issue the plan, the Saudis can reap a diplomatic windfall for their allegedly positive attitude to Arab-Israeli peace, while pointing out to the Arab world that they never really proposed anything.

Israel, therefore, hopes the Saudis will present the plan at a late March meeting of

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Three wounded in Gaza camp

Three Palestinians were wounded by Israeli tank and machine gun fire in the southern Gaza Strip.

Israel said the soldiers returned fire directed at them from the Rafah refugee camp.

### Israel eyes roadblock policy

Israel is reviewing its policy on roadblocks in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The review focuses on whether the roadblocks could be made safer for soldiers, and if some could be removed, said Ra'anana Gissin, a spokesman for Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

"We've seen wave upon wave of suicide bombers penetrate Israel, so the response was to augment roadblocks," Gissin said Tuesday. "Recently the problem was exacerbated because the roadblocks themselves became targets."

### Lebanese accused of spying

Lebanon claims to have uncovered an Israeli spy ring. The Lebanese Army said in a statement that three Lebanese men had been arrested on suspicion of passing information to Israel regarding the locations of Lebanese and Syrian army positions in Lebanon as well as information about Hezbollah operations.

### Israel intercepts passenger plane

Israeli jets intercepted a German passenger plane approaching Tel Aviv when it failed to respond to calls from ground controllers. A spokesman for the Israel Airports Authority denied reports that officials feared the plane had been hijacked and was about to crash into a Tel Aviv skyscraper.

The pilot of the passenger plane had his radio tuned to a Cypriot frequency. When two Israeli fighter jets came up beside him, however, the pilot switched frequency and made contact with Ben-Gurion Airport.

the Arab League, which would give the plan more credibility in Israeli eyes.

Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon reportedly have responded positively to the initiative. A Saudi newspaper reported that Syria was not opposed to it.

Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat also endorsed the plan, said Siegman, who met with Arafat on Monday. Arafat's endorsement included a call to allow Israel to retain sovereignty over the Western Wall and the Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City, Siegman said, adding that it was the first time Arafat had conceded sovereignty over a part of eastern Jerusalem.

According to the Jerusalem Post, Arafat told Siegman that the Saudis are unlikely to present the initiative at the Arab League summit in Beirut if Arafat is not allowed to attend. Sharon's government has prevented Arafat from leaving the West Bank city of Ramallah since December, demanding that he first make more effort to rein in Palestinian terrorists.

Missing from the plan is any mention of how Jerusalem would be controlled, or the "right of return" that Palestinians claim for millions of refugees and their descendants to homes they left during Israel's 1948 War of Independence.

Israeli officials are taking the omissions as a sign that the Saudis are open to Arab concessions on those issues. However, a senior aide to Sharon said Monday that Israel could not agree to the plan's key provision — a return to the pre-1967 borders, under which Jerusalem was divided.

It was not clear whether the Saudis are open to any negotiation over the plan.

Bush administration officials are seeking more details about the initiative. Nevertheless, they are intrigued by the idea, saying Arab support is an important "piece of the puzzle" toward a Israeli-Palestinian peace, and encouraging the Saudi prince to flesh out his proposed statement. The plan is expected to be a topic of discussion when Vice President Dick Cheney visits the region next month.

But they note that their immediate goal is a cease-fire, and that the pressure is still on Arafat to control violence. "It may be unclear how this can lead to an end to violence, but I think if we ever get back to a political discussion on final-status issues, this will be a very useful tool," a State Department official said.

Administration officials note that the failure of Egypt and Saudi Arabia, considered the two most important Arab regimes, to give Arafat a diplomatic "umbrella" at Camp David may have contributed to his unwillingness to finalize a deal.

While some parties have resisted discussing the parameters of a final agreement while violence continues, many believe there needs to be some idea of a diplomatic solution to give the sides a reason to stop fighting.

But many are wary of the Saudi plan, seeing it as only a small ray of hope that the United States is grasping because of a dearth of alternatives.

"There is a huge difference between an actual plan and an off-the-record discussion," said an official with an American Jewish organization. "It will be interesting to see whether or not the Saudis decide to actually present the speech, as he planned, and galvanize other Arab countries to support the initiative."

Speculation is rife about the Saudis' motives in presenting the initiative. One possibility is that Saudi officials want to improve their image in Washington after the Sept. 11 terror attacks. Fifteen of the 19 terrorists were Saudis.

According to the Israeli daily Ha'aretz, Israel's Foreign Ministry has come up with several possible motives for the Saudi initiative — including the possibility that it was aimed at forging a unified Arab front on the diplomatic process, while casting Israel in the role of obstructor to the peace process.

Some suggested Abdullah floated the initiative as a trial balloon to test Arab and international reaction before the Arab League meeting. Others suggested that the Saudis are concerned that the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict could destabilize the entire region.

Some left-wing Israeli commentators speculated that the proposal was aimed at motivating the Israeli opposition into believing that there is an Arab partner for peace, if only the Sharon government could be overthrown.

Whatever Abdullah's thinking, State Department officials say the plan has changed the playing field for a final Middle East peace plan. "We're taking it as a statement of Saudi policy and we are holding them to it," the State Department official said. "I don't think there is a way to put this back in the bottle." □

(JTA correspondent Naomi Segal in Jerusalem contributed to this report.)



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## JEWISH WORLD

### ADL settles privacy lawsuit, but denies it did anything wrong

By Aleza Goldsmith

*Jewish Bulletin of Northern California*

SAN FRANCISCO (JTA) — The Anti-Defamation League has settled a nine-year-old civil lawsuit against the agency, agreeing to pay three remaining plaintiffs \$178,000.

Originally filed in 1993 by 19 plaintiffs, the lawsuit had accused the ADL of illegally obtaining and disseminating the plaintiffs' private records for the purpose of blacklisting them.

Although the ADL decided to settle, it continues to deny all allegations of wrongdoing. After nine years, however, the organization felt that enough was enough.

"We just decided it was time to get past this and move on," said ADL attorney David Goldstein. "Otherwise, there could very well be many more years of litigation."

Jonathan Bernstein, who leads the agency's Central Pacific Region, agreed, adding that he is "pleased that this is almost behind us now."

The plaintiffs' attorney, former U.S. Rep. Pete McCloskey, could not be reached for comment.

The California Court of Appeals dropped the ADL's appeal early this week. The ADL is still waiting for the court to drop the plaintiff's appeal.

Both sides had filed appeals in July when a San Francisco Superior Court judge dismissed the cases of plaintiffs Anne Poirier and Steven Zeltzer, but not that of Jefferey Blankfort, who claimed the ADL obtained his Social Security number "for nonjournalistic purposes."

Because the settlement took place before the appeals came though, the ADL agreed to compensate all three.

The ADL would have preferred to have had all the plaintiffs dismissed in July, but Goldstein said the case's nine years of litigation did help establish "some important principles" about the agency.

In 1998, for instance, the California 1st District Court of Appeals determined that the ADL could be defined as a journalistic organization, and as such keep confidential any information gathered for journalistic purposes.

Fourteen of the 19 original plaintiffs — two of whom are deceased — subsequently dropped their cases.

The lawsuit was originally filed after police raids on San Francisco and Los Angeles ADL offices in 1992. During those raids, confidential files revealing the names of individuals in activist groups the ADL was monitoring were confiscated.

But as a journalistic organization publishing many pamphlets, bulletins and journals, according to Bernstein, it is not out of the ordinary or illegal for the ADL to maintain that type of information, which is used to assist the agency in the prevention of hate crimes.

"It's something we have done since we were founded in 1913," he said. "It's a proactive way to deal with hatred before it explodes into an incident."

In 1985, for example, the ADL supplied the San Francisco Police Department with information that helped convict Coy Ray Phelps, who was charged with placing bombs at several Jewish and non-Jewish sites.

"Time and time again, ADL's background information on extremists has thwarted their agendas through successful prosecution or the outcry of the community," said Bernstein.

The need for this type of investigative activity and "keeping of files" is underscored by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Goldstein said. "Now more people are understanding of the importance" of monitoring possible extremists and "keeping a reservoir of information on them."

Following the 1992 raids, however, San Francisco's then-District Attorney Arlo Smith considered bringing indictments against the ADL for alleged spy activities. One ADL investigator, Roy Bullock, was accused of illegally obtaining information on political organizations and individuals from a former San Francisco police inspector, Tom Gerard.

The ADL settled that civil suit in November 1993. □

### Kissinger cancels synagogue visit

Henry Kissinger canceled a trip to Brazil, where he was to be honored by Sao Paulo's Jewish community. Citing Kissinger's alleged ties to Augusto Pinochet's former dictatorship in Chile, a Spanish judge would have sought the former U.S. secretary of state's arrest upon his arrival in Brazil, according to Rabbi Henry Sobel of the Congregacao Israelita Paulista synagogue, which organized the trip.

In addition, Sobel said, "human rights organizations from Chile and Argentina sent us e-mails" protesting Kissinger's planned visit.

### French court to try Yahoo

A French court said it would try Yahoo and its former president for condoning war crimes by selling Nazi memorabilia online.

After a French judge ordered Yahoo in November 2000 to prevent Internet users in France from accessing Yahoo's auction site, a U.S. judge ruled last November that U.S. free-speech rights cannot be overruled by foreign countries that have more restrictive laws on freedom of expression.

On Tuesday, the French court ruled that French law applies to Yahoo, adding that it would hear allegations that Yahoo was inciting racial hatred by allowing French surfers to buy the Nazi memorabilia.

### Thousands join Shabbat program

Thousands of North American Jews are expected to join an outreach program to celebrate Shabbat.

More than 600 synagogues and Jewish centers, with approximately 60,000 participants, are expected to participate March 8 in Shabbat Across America/Canada 2002. The sponsoring organization, the National Jewish Outreach Program, says it has reached more than 615,000 North American Jews and engaged them in Jewish life since 1987.

A full list of U.S. and Canadian locations that will be hosting the Shabbat program is posted on the group's Web site at [www.njop.org](http://www.njop.org).

### 'Mein Kampf' sentence upheld

A Prague appeals court upheld a sentence imposed on a Czech publisher who sold more than 90,000 unabridged copies of Hitler's "Mein Kampf."

In December 2000, publisher Michal Zitko was handed a three-year suspended sentence and fined \$50,000 for publishing Hitler's manifesto without disclaimers or commentaries. Zitko, who had been found guilty of supporting a movement aimed at suppressing civil rights and freedoms, claimed before the appeals court that he was unable to pay the fine.

However, the court estimated he made more than \$150,000 in proceeds from the book and turned down his appeal.

## Conservative survey shows Ramah kids have more frum

By Julie Wiener

NEW YORK (JTA) — High school senior Ariel Postone remembers Shabbat as her “absolute favorite” part of attending Camp Ramah in California.

As Friday night approached, Postone, who lives in Berkeley, Calif., and her friends would clean the tent, dress up — and “all the girls would do their makeup together.”

During services outside, they would watch the sunset, and after dinner the dancing, singing and atmosphere of spirituality made it “like a party with a religious aspect.”

Given Postone’s and many other campers’ fond memories of Shabbat at camp, it is not surprising that alumni of the Conservative movement’s network of summer camps are more likely to celebrate the Sabbath regularly than are other Conservative teens.

A new study, based on data culled from a larger Jewish Theological Seminary-sponsored survey, shows that Conservative Jewish teens who attended the movement’s Ramah summer camps are more religiously observant, Jewishly committed and attached to Israel than those who did not attend their Jewish camps.

Ramah alumni are also more committed than Conservative teens who attended other Jewish camps, mainly those affiliated with Jewish community centers and Young Judaea and Habonim Dror, two Zionist camps.

And on all measures, the more high school summers the teens spent at Ramah, the more Jewishly identified they were.

The study interviewed 1,273 North American teens whose parents belong to Conservative synagogues.

Of the sample, 176 had attended a camp affiliated with the Ramah network, and 25 percent of those had spent four or five high school summers at a Ramah camp.

Of those surveyed, 716 had attended other Jewish camps and 381 had not attended any. The Conservative movement has seven Jewish sleepaway camps and five-day camps in North America, serving more than 5,000 campers.

In the area with the widest gap between Ramah participants and teens attending other Jewish camps, 54 percent of the Ramah alumni surveyed said they always celebrate Shabbat at home, while only 23 percent of the teens from other Jewish camps do.

Conservative teens who attended other Jewish summer camps were less observant than their Ramah peers, but were more observant than those who had not attended any Jewish summer camp. Among the findings:

- 78 percent of Ramah alumni said it is “very important” to marry someone Jewish, compared to 59 percent of other campers and 41 percent of the teens who had never attended a Jewish summer camp.

- 56 percent of Ramah alumni said they do not eat meat and dairy foods together outside the home, compared with 29 percent of other campers and 24 percent who had never attended a Jewish camp.

- 70 percent said Israel is “very important” to them, compared with 56 percent of the other campers and 39 percent who had never attended a Jewish camp.

The study notes that Jewish summer camp participants are a self-selected group who are more likely to have grown up in highly committed Jewish homes than are Conservative teens who do not

attend such camps. The researchers report that while parental influence is a stronger factor, camp attendance also has significant influence on teens’ behavior.

The study “provides a clear basis for the claim that attendance at Camp Ramah during the high school years has a holding effect on youth from committed Conservative homes and a transformative effect on others from less religious families,” write the researchers, Ariela Keysar and Barry Kosmin.

Keysar and Kosmin were both involved in the 1990 National Jewish Population Survey.

Rabbi Sheldon Dorph, national Ramah director, said he was pleased with the report, which he said is “not a sugar coat.”

Dorph attributed Ramah’s apparent impact on Jewish identity to the fact that campers are in a community “where all the adult models are serious about Jewish learning and their Jewishness” and where participants interact with Jewishly involved campers of all ages. While the study indicates that Ramah has a major impact on Jewish identity, Dorph said the camps may need to do more to discourage intermarriage.

Thirty-six percent of Ramah alumni said they prefer to date Jews, but that they also date non-Jews, while only 30 percent of the alumni said they date Jews exclusively.

However, the study indicates that the more summers at Ramah, the more committed teens are to dating only Jews: 70 percent of teens who had spent at least four high school summers at Ramah date only Jews.

In addition to indicating a need to address intermarriage, Dorph said, the study also points to the need to expand the Ramah network. Like most Jewish camps, Ramah turns away hundreds of children each year for lack of space.

Why are Conservative teens who attended Ramah more observant than those who went to other Jewish camps?

Lenny Silberman, assistant vice president of program services for the Jewish Community Centers Association of North America and a former director of the Pittsburgh JCC’s Emma Kaufman Camp, speculated that the differences stem from the fact that Ramah participants are more homogenous and tend to come from more Jewishly committed households.

“Kids that go to Camp Ramah clearly start their Jewish journey in a different place than most children who might go to another camp,” Silberman said.

JCC camps, in contrast, attract a more diverse clientele and devote less attention to formal education, such as religious and Hebrew instruction, than Ramah ones, Silberman said.

However, Silberman said, when it comes to informal Jewish education, “there’s no question in my mind that all the JCC camps in the year 2002 are doing such incredible work.”

Doron Krakow, national director of Young Judaea, said he admires the Ramah network, but questioned whether other Jewish camps affiliated with religious movements or Zionist youth movements are really less effective than Ramah at fostering Jewish commitment.

He cited a 1997 study of adult Young Judaea alumni, including those who had attended at least one summer of one of the movement’s six summer camps. That study found them to be considerably more observant than the general American Jewish population.

For example, 60 percent reported lighting Shabbat candles, 44 percent kept kosher and 91 percent who had wed in the previous decade were married to other Jews, Krakow said. □