



# Daily News Bulletin

Vol. 80, No. 61

Tuesday, April 2, 2002

85th Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Israeli troops enter Kalkilya

Israeli troops took over the Palestinian town of Kalkilya late Sunday night.

Eight Israeli soldiers were injured in what is known as Operation Protective Wall. Israel's Army Radio reported that electricity and water were cut in Kalkilya before the army pushed into the city.

Israeli officials charge that Kalkilya has served as a base for terror attacks on nearby Israeli cities.

On Monday, Israeli tanks briefly rumbled into Bethlehem and the nearby villages of Al Khader and Beit Jalla in an operation Israeli leaders said was designed to end Palestinian terror attacks.

A few hours after the incursion, the tanks left Al Khader and they also pulled back in Bethlehem to patrol the town's outskirts.

The army meanwhile is remaining in Ramallah, where Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat has been isolated at his headquarters since last Friday. Israeli troops were reported to be engaged in an intense firefight with Palestinian gunmen in the streets of Ramallah on Monday.

### Car bomb explodes in Jerusalem

Three people were injured, one seriously, when a car exploded Monday in downtown Jerusalem.

A Palestinian man who was driving the car died in the explosion, but it was not immediately clear whether he was a suicide bomber or the bomb detonated prematurely. The seriously injured man was a police officer who had stopped the car for a security check. Israeli security officials believe the Palestinian was on his way to attack a strip of cafes and bars.

### French Jews get protection

More than 1,000 additional police officers will guard French Jewish sites after a spate of anti-Semitic attacks over the weekend.

In the most recent incident, firemen said the Or Aviv Synagogue in the city of Marseille was destroyed by fire just before midnight on Sunday.

The attacks prompted French Jewish leaders to warn Sunday of a new Kristallnacht.

### Sharon: Jewish unity imperative

Jewish unity is Israel's "primary strategic asset" in the war against Palestinian terror, Ariel Sharon told Diaspora Jewish leaders. [Page 3]

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES

### Unstinting terror builds support for strong Israeli military strikes

By Gil Sedan

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Igor Rottstein, a messenger at a Tel Aviv travel agency, couldn't take his eyes off the television footage of the newest terrorist attack at a Haifa restaurant, despite the tears he could barely hold back.

"I buried two friends in similar attacks," said Rottstein, 21. "I lost a classmate in the Dolphinarium attack last June — he stayed with me at my place and the next night he was gone. This is crazy. I can't believe this is happening to us."

More and more Israelis are finding it hard to believe the seemingly endless chain of Palestinian terror attacks.

But the carnage is building popular support for an Israeli military response that ratchets higher every few weeks.

That might explain why Israel's present military offensive in the West Bank — Operation Protective Wall, undertaken after a unilateral cease-fire during the mission of U.S. envoy Anthony Zinni was met with a string of deadly Palestinian attacks — has won such broad popular support.

The call-up of some 20,000 reservists late last week passed with relatively few objections — the first time that such a call has been so well-received since the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

According to initial reports, some 95 percent of those who received call-up notices responded immediately, and others have volunteered for duty.

According to military sources, scores of reservists were sent home because quotas already had been reached.

"This is heartwarming," Justice Minister Meir Sheetrit said of the reservists' response. "The public votes with its legs."

To be sure, there is still some criticism.

The head of the left-wing Meretz Party, Yossi Sarid, called the Israeli offensive the war for the Peace for the Settlements, playing on the 1982 Peace for the Galilee invasion of Lebanon.

Yet such rhetorical attacks have failed to resonate outside of traditional leftist strongholds such as Peace Now.

"The reaction of the government, which drafts soldiers and drags us into an overall war, is the reaction of a cowardly and bankrupt leadership," said Moriah Shlomot, general secretary of Peace Now. "This is a leadership that cannot do what the majority of the people demand — dismantle the settlements, get out of the territories and set up a border."

Noam Hoffstetter, a Peace Now activist in Jerusalem, argues that the activities of the peace movement have increased since a sizable rally in Tel Aviv about a month ago.

Despite the apparent support for a wide-ranging offensive on the Palestinian terrorist infrastructure, Hoffstetter insists that opposition to military moves is gaining momentum.

For example, Israeli and international media have highlighted the refusal of some 300 reserve officers to serve in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Yet the protest movement has been overtaken by a general feeling that "something must be done, this cannot go on anymore," as Amnon Dankner, editor of the mass-circulation daily Ma'ariv, wrote last Friday.

"It's worse than a nightmare," said Iris Elhanani, 45, a sales promoter from Tel Aviv. "You wake up and the nightmare is still there." Elhanani lives near the bohemian

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Israeli killed by sniper

An Israeli was killed Monday near Jerusalem's Har Homa neighborhood by a Palestinian sniper. The victim was taken in critical condition to a nearby hospital, where he later died of his wounds, according to the Israeli daily Ha'aretz.

He was identified as Sgt. Maj. Ofir Roth, 22, from Gan Yehoshua. Earlier Monday, eight Israelis were injured, one seriously, in a Palestinian ambush near Ramallah.

### Gunmen fire from Lebanon

Israel's defense minister warned of retaliation after Hezbollah gunmen fired from Lebanon at an Israeli army outpost on the border early Monday. "We have great interest in a quiet border between us and the Lebanese," Benjamin Ben-Eliezer told Israel Radio. "But let there be no misunderstanding. I hope that we will not need to prove to Hezbollah the strength of the Israeli Defense Force."

### 11 killed for helping Israel

Palestinian gunmen killed 11 men suspected of helping Israel.

Two masked Palestinian gunmen entered an intelligence building in the West Bank city of Tulkarm on Monday and killed eight men awaiting trial on charges of helping Israeli security forces, according to Palestinian witnesses. Three other Palestinians also accused of helping Israel were found shot dead elsewhere in the West Bank.

### Peace activists wounded

Seven foreign peace activists and a Palestinian television cameraman were wounded when an Israeli soldier fired at the ground in front of them, witnesses said. Monday's incident occurred when about 100 Palestinian and foreign peace demonstrators were marching in the West Bank town of Beit Jalla.



## Daily News Bulletin

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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](http://www.jta.org).

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Sheinkin Street in downtown Tel Aviv, a generally lively street of cafes, boutiques and restaurants.

For the past two weeks, Elhanani has steered clear of Sheinkin and other places that might attract terrorists looking to maximize the number of victims.

Elhanani is not alone in her fear. Eran, the Israeli Association for Emotional First Aid, this week allocated extra phone lines and additional counselors to help worried callers, but its lines were constantly busy as increasing numbers of Israelis sought help in the crisis.

Even reserve Lt. Gen. Meir Pa'il, a former Knesset member from Communist parties, suggested recently that Israel reoccupy the entire West Bank and Gaza Strip, before negotiating a peaceful settlement "from a position of strength."

However, despite the national consensus that "something must be done," there was little discussion of what would happen "the day after" the Israeli offensive.

Some analysts, such as Danny Rubinstein of Ha'aretz, suggested that the Israeli offensive would only strengthen Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat, who has been "isolated" with a cadre of close aides, terrorist ringleaders and European peaceniks in his Ramallah office.

Israel has pledged that it will not harm or exile Arafat, but Arafat still has taken to the airwaves claiming that his life is in danger and stating his willingness to die as a "martyr" for the Palestinian cause.

That points up Israel's conundrum: Beyond satisfying the public desire for revenge, what practical results can Operation Protective Wall bring?

"The present military operation will end up with very little," suggested Eyal Golan, 42, a computer engineer from the Galilee.

"Arafat need not worry and does not need to move a finger — the street and the Arab world will do the job for him," by whipping up international pressure against Israel.

This is exactly what worries Golan's wife, Tamar.

"I can't listen to those leftists anymore," she said. "They frighten me, because so far they have brought no results. I need to hear the right: They calm me down, suggesting that there is no alternative but to fight terrorism until victory."

But can Palestinian terrorism really be annihilated?

Efraim Inbar, director of Bar-Ilan University's Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies, suggested this week that there is little hope in sight for an end to the 18-month-old intifada.

Even a full-fledged Palestinian state likely would manipulate hatred against Jews and Israel to enhance its position and quiet domestic unrest, Inbar argued.

"Palestinian behavior has become incomprehensible in rational and instrumental terms," Inbar wrote recently in the Jerusalem Post.

"People in protracted ethnic conflict usually act according to their emotions, rather than in a rational way."

The Palestinians are not close to the stage in which they can educate their children to coexist peacefully with Israel and not to hate Jews.

Therefore, Inbar concluded in the type of gloomy vision that has become all too common in Israel, the conflict will continue, "long and violent."

"Peace is a beautiful dream indeed," he wrote, "but with the Palestinians as a neighbor, it unfortunately remains, for our generation, just a dream." □

## Rumsfeld denounces terrorism sponsors

WASHINGTON(JTA) — Iran, Iraq and Syria inspire and finance a culture of political murder and suicide bombing, the U.S. secretary of defense said.

Donald Rumsfeld also said Iraq is encouraging people to be suicide bombers, and that there is "no question" that Iran was involved in the Karine A arms shipment to the Palestinian Authority in January and that Iran works with Syria to send terrorists into Lebanon.

A whole generation of young people is being "encouraged to go out and kill themselves, and as they kill other innocent people — it seems to me it's important for every country in the world, and people in the world who don't think that's a good idea, to stand up and say so," Rumsfeld said at a Pentagon briefing Monday. □

## JEWISH WORLD

### Brussels shul bombed

Vandals firebombed a synagogue in Brussels, causing damage inside but no injuries.

Eyewitnesses quoted by Reuters said two areas of the building on the first floor were slightly damaged by fire, which burnt the floor and some benches, but did not harm any holy books.

Police were posted around the clock at the synagogue in Brussels' Anderlecht district following the attack Sunday night.

### Islamic states blast Israel

Islamic countries were split about whether to condemn Palestinian suicide bombers as terrorists, but agreed that Israel was guilty of state terrorism.

At a meeting on terrorism Monday in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference passed a unanimous resolution accusing Israel of "dragging the region toward an all-out war."

The conference's resolution also called for U.N. sanctions to deter Israeli military action against the Palestinians.

### Mideast violence reaches Japan

A pro-Palestinian activist in Japan committed suicide by lighting himself on fire in Tokyo.

Takao Himori killed himself over the weekend in a Tokyo park to protest Israeli policies, a fellow activist said. Himori was a member of a group known as Voice that reportedly held hunger strikes and vigils in support of the Palestinians.

### Clinton regrets Rich pardon

President Clinton said he regrets pardoning billionaire financier Marc Rich. Clinton told *Newsweek* magazine that he would not grant the pardon again "just for the politics."

Rich fled the United States to Switzerland in 1983 after he had been indicted on 51 counts of tax evasion, racketeering and violating trade sanctions with Iraq.

His attorneys launched a major initiative on his behalf, courting Israeli and American Jewish activists to impress Clinton with Rich's philanthropic activities.

"It was terrible politics," Clinton said of the pardon. "It wasn't worth the damage to my reputation. But that doesn't mean the attacks were true."

### New Zealand Jews want to grow

The Jewish community of New Zealand launched a campaign to attract foreign Jews.

The campaign is aimed at Jews from poor countries and emphasizes New Zealand's high standard of living, economic stability and security.

New Zealand's population of 3.7 million includes some 4,700 Jews.

## Sharon to Diaspora Jews: 'We need you more than ever'

By Rachel Pomerance

NEW YORK (JTA) — Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is calling for Jewish unity in Israel's struggle against terror.

In a conference call with Diaspora leaders Monday, Sharon said the "unity of the Jewish people" is Israel's "primary strategic asset."

"Each and every Jew" is "now required to make a supreme effort to contradict the claims made by those who question our right to the land of Israel," he said.

"In these times, we need you more than ever. We need you to express your public support for Israel," he said.

"Join us here, demonstrate your love and support," he told those on the call, which was sponsored by the United Jewish Communities, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, the Jewish Agency for Israel and Keren Hayesod.

Sharon began his briefing by recounting the latest terror incidents over the Passover holiday.

Israel made a "real effort" to achieve a cease-fire, he said, including rescinding his demand of seven days of quiet before negotiations and a withdrawal of forces from Palestinian cities. But this, he said, was "all for terror, terror and more terror."

Now, after Israel has "exhausted every effort to achieve a cease-fire" with the Palestinian Authority, the Jewish state "had no choice but to combat terrorism by ourselves in order to restore security to our citizens," the prime minister said.

The main purpose of the operation, he said, is to "uproot" terrorism in a "battle for our homes, values and way of life."

"This struggle is going to be long, difficult and complex," he said. "It requires unity, determination and faith in the justice of our cause."

"It will be carried on until we triumph."

"Only by overcoming terrorism and winning this battle can we achieve a cessation of hostilities," restart negotiations and enjoy the "much sought-after peace and security for generations, which we all want."

Sharon also addressed what he said was an imbalance in world opinion on the conflict.

"It seems today that everyone is concerned about Arafat, whether he will have two or three rooms, with or without electricity. I do not detect the same degree of concern in the world about the two little children" whose mother, pregnant with twins, and father were murdered by a Palestinian terrorist outside the entrance to a toy store.

And Sharon also commented on the anti-Semitism directed against Jews in the Diaspora.

Israel stands "behind you in the struggle," he said. Just as Israel is a "Jewish worldwide project," the Jewish state feels a "responsibility to Jewish communities around the world." Finally, Sharon offered hope with his faith in the Jewish people.

"On Wednesday, we read in the Haggadah that in every generation, some have arisen against us to annihilate us but the most holy, blessed be He, always delivered us out of their hands. I believe that just as we overcame our past enemies, we will overcome all the obstacles facing us today."

"The Jewish people have seen harder times than the one that we are facing," he said. "When you consider all the hardships, persecutions and Holocaust that our people have undergone, you reach one conclusion: the Jewish people are indestructible, and I'm sure that we are indestructible." □

## Pro-Hitler magazine sold in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO (JTA) — Brazilian Jewish activists are protesting a pro-Hitler magazine.

Articles in *Humanus* magazine praise Hitler, call Sigmund Freud a sexual pervert and "reveal the true Jewish Albert Einstein." The magazine is widening its distribution and can be found in Sao Paulo, Brazil's largest city. □

## Study: Birthright program promotes 'cardiac' Judaism during follow-up

By Julie Wiener

NEW YORK (JTA) — North American Birthright Israel participants are more likely to be involved in Jewish groups and Jewish learning than their peers who did not go to Israel, according to a new study.

And one year after the trip, levels of commitment and enthusiasm for Jewish life and Israel did not drop significantly from the levels three months after the trip.

But while there are noticeable differences between Birthright alumni and their peers when it comes to attitudes about Judaism and Israel and involvement in campus activities, for the most part the program does not appear to have made a difference on participants' actual behavior.

According to the study, Birthright alumni are no more likely to observe Jewish rituals or holidays or attend synagogue than non-participants, and only a minority of the alumni report they "often" participate in Jewish activities or Jewish learning.

The new study of the first Birthright cohort was commissioned by Birthright and conducted by Brandeis University's Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies.

Now in its third year, Birthright Israel has sent 28,000 Jews aged 18 to 26 to Israel from around the world.

The program — which has largely been greeted enthusiastically — aims to get young Jews, especially those less affiliated, more interested in their heritage.

Most alumni rave about the trips, particularly in the immediate aftermath.

However, many in the Jewish community have long been concerned that the effect of the trip would wear off with time, particularly if Jewish organizations do not do enough to engage the newly excited alumni.

"The impact of Birthright Israel on participants' Jewish identities appears to be profound," write the study's authors.

"However, the success of the program poses a challenge for the Jewish community. The community now needs to find ways to transform participants' inspiration and motivation into Jewish commitment."

The study surveyed 1,676 participants and 153 non-participants — the latter group had expressed interest in Birthright trips but did not end up going.

Researchers said they believe the responses from the non-participants are similar to the pre-trip attitudes of the participants.

Among the findings:

- Seventy-six percent of Birthright alumni, compared with 65 percent of non-participants, said being Jewish was "extremely important" in their lives one year after the trip. Three months after the trip, 74 percent of the participants found their Jewishness extremely important.

- Ninety-one percent of alumni, compared with 85 percent of non-participants, said it was somewhat or extremely important to raise their children as Jews.

- Seventy-seven percent, compared with 72 percent of non-participants, said it was somewhat or extremely important in their life to marry a Jew.

- Seventy-three percent of alumni thought it was at least somewhat likely that they would return to Israel in the next two

years, with 7 percent reporting they had already returned. Financial concerns were considered the greatest obstacle to returning to Israel, but concerns about safety were also high.

- Among students, 49 percent of alumni reported they often or occasionally engaged in campus Jewish activities, compared with 32 percent of non-participants.

- Birthright alumni were not significantly more likely to engage in ritual observance, such as attending synagogue, fasting on Yom Kippur or keeping kosher than were non-participants. They also were no more likely to have close Jewish friends than were non-participants.

- Birthright alumni who were not in college were less likely than those who were students to take courses in Jewish subjects, take on leadership roles in Jewish organizations or participate in social networks of other Birthright alumni.

Since the intifada began in fall of 2000, Birthright participants have tended to be older on average, with more 20-somethings — who are less influenced by skittish parents — going than the college students who dominated the program in its first year.

Charles Kadushin, one of the authors of the study, said the trip has affected "cardiac Judaism," or the way people feel about Judaism.

"Whether you want other things to happen, the jury is out," said Kadushin, who is affiliated with the Cohen Center. "The bottom line on all this is the ball's in the court of the Jewish community in North America. What are they going to do with this? They've gotten attitudinal changes. People feel warmly toward Judaism, toward Israel, and are more interested in raising their children as Jews. The question is where are we going to take that now?"

Jeff Rubin, a spokesman for Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life, the largest single provider of Birthright trips, said it would be unrealistic to expect the trips to immediately change the behavior of young Jews.

"When you're dealing with college students who have lots of demands on their time, we're planting seeds.

"We would love them all to be activists, but if they make a decision that brings them closer to the Jewish community based on their Birthright experience that's a win," he said. "There may not always be a short-term gain, but hopefully there will be a longer-term gain."

The study's authors urge the Jewish community to find diverse ways to engage Birthright alumni and capitalize on their enthusiasm.

"It probably means removing a host of barriers — financial and competence-related — to participation in the Jewish community," the authors write. "But it is also likely to entail the creation of new programs that satisfy the need for connection and community nurtured by Birthright Israel."

Leonard Saxe, one of the study's authors and the director of the Cohen Center, said the study shows that after a year, "The participants are just as enthusiastic, just as positive about the trip and the Jewish community as they were when they returned."

What's not yet clear, Saxe said, are the long-term "behavioral changes" Birthright participants might make as a result of their experience.

In addition, he said, the study points to the need "to do more with non-student Birthright alumni, especially since they've become a much larger percentage of the participants since the intifada." □