



# Daily News Bulletin

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85th Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Colin Powell arrives in Israel

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell arrived in Israel for a round of shuttle diplomacy between Ariel Sharon and Yasser Arafat. Powell will meet with the Israeli prime minister Friday and with the Palestinian Authority president Saturday.

Powell hopes to convince Israel to withdraw its troops from Palestinian areas of the West Bank, get Arafat to take action against Palestinian terrorism and put in place a mechanism for resuming diplomatic negotiations.

In a phone call with Sharon before arriving, Powell said Israeli military actions in the West Bank would not end terror.

"However long the Israeli incursion continues, the problems will still be there," Powell said, adding that even if Israel is effective, "there will still be people willing to resort to violence and suicide bombings."

### Jewish groups mobilizing for rally

The American Jewish community is gearing up for a massive Israel solidarity rally in Washington on Monday. Tens of thousands of American Jews are expected to come by bus, plane and train from more than 15 states for the 1 p.m. rally on the west front of the U.S. Capitol.

The rally is intended to express solidarity with Israel and support for the war against global terrorism.

Speakers include former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel, congressional leaders, Christian and Muslim religious leaders and representatives of major American Jewish organizations. Organizers began planning the rally less than one week ago.

### Crash in Tunisia is deemed terror

A truck filled with natural gas crashed into a historic synagogue on the Tunisian island of Jerba, killing at least six people and injuring 20.

While Tunisian authorities called the incident an accident, a source at Israel's Foreign Ministry said it was a terror attack, according to the Israeli daily Ha'aretz.

The source said Israel has no hard proof, but pointed out that the synagogue is in an isolated place. "To get there, you have to want to get there," the source said.

## U.S. Jewish leaders press media, Congress with pro-Israel message

By Matthew E. Berger

WASHINGTON (JTA) — As President Bush demands that Israel end its West Bank invasion "without delay," U.S. Jewish leaders and activists are trying to act just as fast to get a pro-Israel message to American audiences and policy-makers.

A major Washington rally is planned for Monday to express solidarity with Israel and equate Israel's military campaign with America's war on terrorism. The event is the cornerstone of efforts by American Jewish groups to build public support for Israel.

Polling figures show continued American support for Israel despite the army's offensive in the West Bank, but many Jewish leaders are quietly concerned that they are losing the public relations war to Arab protesters around the world and Arab commentators on television.

The American Jewish campaign targets both the Bush administration — whose position in recent days has diverged significantly from Israel's — and the American media, which some have accused of bias during the latest turmoil.

"We're trying to send our messages to the most important constituencies in the country," said Martin Raffel, associate executive director of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs. The message "is that Israel has a right to defend itself and its citizens."

Many Jewish leaders say they want Americans to understand that Israel is not interested in staying in the parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip it has reoccupied in the last two weeks, but that a withdrawal before the operation is complete would allow suicide bombings to resume.

Jewish leaders also want to make clear that Israel is not defying the United States by proceeding with its operation to root out terrorism, but is only proceeding cautiously by not pulling out while parts of the Palestinian terrorist infrastructure remain intact.

To that end, they have brought in a well-known face: Former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is in the United States on a public relations mission for the current premier, Ariel Sharon.

"If we do not shut down the terror factories that Arafat is hosting, those terror factories that are producing human bombs, it is only a matter of time before suicide bombers will terrorize your cities here in America," Netanyahu told congressional leaders in an address Tuesday.

Netanyahu came to Capitol Hill because it has consistently been a beacon of support for Israel. The American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the pro-Israel lobby, has received dozens of calls from lawmakers offering their help as well as renewed interest from AIPAC's heavy donors, officials say.

Rep. Tom Lantos (D-Calif.) was expected to introduce a resolution supporting Israel this week, and it is likely to receive wide bipartisan support.

In addition, the Middle East Peace Commitments Act, introduced earlier this year by Rep. Gary Ackerman (D-N.Y.), was expected to receive more attention this week, with Ackerman planning to send a letter to colleagues seeking additional support.

The bill would impose sanctions on the Palestinian Authority for not meeting its commitments under its peace agreements with Israel.

Previous incarnations of the bill had sought a State Department assessment of Palestinian Authority compliance before sanctions could be applied, but this version assumes that Palestinian violations are so clear that no assessment is necessary.

As usual, however, the bill would carry a waiver allowing the president to avoid implementing it for reasons of national security.

But some American Jewish leaders are concerned that working through Congress

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Jenin gunmen surrender

A last group of Palestinian gunmen surrendered Thursday to Israeli forces in Jenin.

More than 1,000 Palestinians were reported to have surrendered during the past day to Israeli troops in Jenin, where the fiercest fighting has taken place since Israel launched Operation Protective Wall on March 29.

In another development, the Israeli army said it has arrested more than 4,000 Palestinians during its West Bank operation. Of them, 121 were on Israel's wanted list, the army said.

### Seder bombing toll rises to 28

Another victim died of injuries from the "Passover Massacre."

Anna Ya'acovovitch, 78, of Holon, was wounded when a suicide bomber blew himself up in a hotel dining room where guests were holding the Passover seder.

The death toll in the attack now stands at 28.

### Envoy's niece among victims

The niece of Israel's ambassador to the United Nations was among the victims killed in a bus bombing this week near Haifa.

U.N. Ambassador Yehuda Lancry traveled to Israel on Thursday for the funeral of his 18-year-old niece, Noa Shlomo.

Shlomo, of Nahariya, was among eight Israelis killed when a Palestinian suicide bomber blew himself up aboard the Jerusalem-bound bus Wednesday morning.

The other victims were identified as: Avinoam Alfia, 23, of Kiryat Ata; Shlomo Ben Haim, 26, of Kiryat Yam; Nir Danieli, 24, of Kiryat Ata; Keren Franco, 18, of Kiryat Yam; Ze'ev Henik, 24, of Carmiel; Shimshon Stelkol, 34, of Kiryat Yam; and Michael Weissman, 21, of Kiryat Yam.



## Daily News Bulletin

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will not be productive, since Congress already is strongly pro-Israel.

Instead, as the Bush administration demands an Israeli withdrawal, some Jewish leaders are focusing their efforts on the State Department and National Security Council.

"There has to be a focus to make sure that these agencies are covered, that they know we are watching them very closely," one American Jewish activist said. "We trust the president of the United States, but we have to make sure that those in charge of carrying out his policies do so without deviation."

The media also is seen as a key battleground, as American Jews complain that many American news programs are not giving enough time to the Israeli side or allow too many Palestinian apologists on the airwaves.

"The media is going to give all the time to the underdogs," said David Ivry, Israel's ambassador to the United States.

The Israeli case is more complex, he said, but has an impact on editorials and policy when it is expressed through back channels to the media and the administration.

Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said the new campaigns are not reactions to recent media coverage or the prevalence of Arab commentators on television.

"I don't think" Arab commentators "are scoring with the American people," Hoenlein said. "The Arabs have been active, but Israel's case has been heard by the American people."

The American Jewish message is not always unified, however. While most Jewish organizations are lobbying in support of Israeli actions, Americans for Peace Now placed an advertisement in Monday's New York Times calling Sharon's policies "misguided."

The "evacuation of settlements in Gaza and isolated positions in the West Bank" would be in the government's self-interest, the ad suggested.

Other organizations are taking swift action as well.

The UJC is holding an Israel Emergency Campaign, hoping to raise millions of dollars for everything from armored school buses to crisis aid for Israelis afraid to leave their homes.

The Conference of Presidents is considering sending a solidarity mission to Israel. It also is considering a campaign urging Americans to buy Israeli products and crafting a newsletter for leaders of Jewish organizations to coordinate their message.

The group also has organized several conference calls with Israeli officials to coordinate the message between Israel and American Jewry.

The large focus is on elaborate media campaigns and events, but American Jewish leaders note that even small things count.

E-mails last week asking American Jews to e-mail and call the White House significantly changed the ratio of pro-Israel to anti-Israel sentiment recorded by the executive mansion, sources said. □

## Young Jews asked to write to soldiers

NEW YORK (JTA) — A letter-writing campaign is being launched to boost the morale of Israeli soldiers on the eve of Israel's Independence Day.

The campaign, coordinated by the Jewish Agency for Israel, the Israeli Defense Ministry and the Israel Defense Force, is encouraging young Jews to write, e-mail or fax letters to soldiers involved in the current operation against Palestinian terror.

Letters can be sent to Letter to Soldier, POB 92, Jerusalem 91000, Israel. They also can be sent by fax to 972-2-621-6133/6214, or can be e-mailed as an attachment to [lettertosoldier@jazo.org.il](mailto:lettertosoldier@jazo.org.il). □

## PLO evicted from DC office

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The Palestine Liberation Organization has been evicted from its Washington office.

The PLO was late paying its rent, according to the Jerusalem Post.

This was not the first time it was late with the rent, but this time the management company, allegedly motivated by political reasons, used the lateness as an excuse for eviction, the paper reported. □

## JEWISH WORLD

### Two more attacks in France

A team member was seriously injured when an amateur Jewish soccer team was attacked during a training session in a Paris suburb Wednesday. Some 15 hooded attackers wielding sticks and metal bars made anti-Semitic remarks and then attacked the teen-aged members of the Maccabi Bondy team.

In another incident, one student was injured when a school bus in Paris was pelted with stones Wednesday. The incident was condemned by the mayor of Paris, Bertrand Delanoë, who said he was "profoundly shocked by the intolerable aggression."

Prime Minister Lionel Jospin appeared on television and reiterated his "total condemnation" of the spate of anti-Semitic violence that has scarred the nation since the start of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. "No matter what is happening in the Middle East," he said, "anti-Semitic acts are totally unacceptable."

### Concern over Jackson-Vanik

Jewish and congressional leaders are concerned about moves to lift trade restrictions on Russia. Congress is working to adjust the 1974 Jackson-Vanik Amendment, a law that tied trade to emigration of tens of thousands of Soviet Jews.

At a hearing of the U.S. House of Representatives Ways and Means subcommittee Thursday, Rep. Tom Lantos (D-Calif.) said he would not support the bill unless it included language about human rights.

U.S. Jewish groups accept ending the application of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment to Russia, but they want assurances that the Russian government will help Jewish communities in the former Soviet Union.

### Protest at Israeli Consulate

The Israeli Consulate in San Francisco was closed to the public Wednesday after several hundred people protested Israel's military actions in the West Bank.

The protesters, from a group known as A Jewish Voice for Peace, rallied in front of the office building housing the consulate. Sixteen protesters were arrested briefly for blocking traffic.

### New Claims Conference leaders

Israel Singer was elected president of the Claims Conference. The group's board of directors also elected other new officers Thursday. Julius Berman and Moshe Sanbar will take on two newly created positions — chairman and chairman of the executive committee, respectively.

Singer, formerly secretary-general of the World Jewish Congress, has led negotiations for compensation and restitution for Holocaust survivors for several years.

Rabbi Israel Miller, who served as the conference's president for 20 years, died last month.

## Anti-Semitic acts falling in U.S., but rising elsewhere around world

By Sharon Samber

WASHINGTON (JTA) — While other parts of the world saw a spike in anti-Semitism last year, the number of anti-Semitic incidents in the United States declined.

There were 1,432 incidents last year in 40 states and the District of Columbia, reflecting an 11 percent decline from the previous year, according to a report by the Anti-Defamation League. The decline is partly due to tighter security at Jewish institutions, the ADL said.

New York and California both saw significant drops in the number of incidents.

The number of acts of anti-Semitic vandalism fell from 729 to 555 nationwide, the lowest in 20 years.

Other findings of the report include:

- There were 877 acts of anti-Semitic harassment, including verbal intimidation, threats and physical assaults.
- Sixty-one percent of anti-Jewish incidents occurred in the Eastern region of the United States.
- The Internet continued to play a substantial role in the dissemination of anti-Semitism.

Americans did not buy the anti-Semitic conspiracy theories that Israel and American Jews were behind the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks or that the attacks were a reaction to Jewish influence in the United States, according to Abraham Foxman, the ADL's national director.

But that same propaganda helped fuel the increase in anti-Semitic incidents around the world, according to an annual study of global anti-Semitism by Tel Aviv University's Stephen Roth Institute for the Study of Contemporary Anti-Semitism and Racism.

The current wave of anti-Semitism in Europe is the worst since World War II, said Avi Beker, secretary-general of the World Jewish Congress, presenting the findings of the Roth Institute's "Anti-Semitism Worldwide."

The Tel Aviv University report, also released this week, shows more than 50 major anti-Semitic attacks in 2001 with weapons and intended to kill Jews. Almost 180 other violent incidents were perpetrated against Jews and Jewish institutions, particularly after Sept. 11 and mainly carried out by Muslims, the report said.

The report also described a "mainstreaming" of anti-Semitism around the world, as anti-Semitic remarks increasingly are heard at many levels of society and government.

Anti-Semitic incidents increased after last summer's U.N.-sponsored anti-racism conference in Durban, South Africa, which the Arab and Muslim world transformed into "a campaign against Israel and the Jewish people," the report says.

Also, efforts by Jewish communities to win restitution for properties looted during the Holocaust continue to trigger resentment and anti-Semitism.

The Tel Aviv report, which counted only major attacks and violent incidents, used different standards than the ADL survey, which included more minor incidents as well.

Researchers acknowledge that there were "many more hundreds" of minor incidents, such as graffiti, slogans and swastikas painted on walls, or personal insults and harassment.

The Tel Aviv report relates a higher degree of violence, especially against individuals who were obviously Jewish and against synagogues.

"The general atmosphere is very hostile all over the world," said Dina Porat, the Roth Institute's director.

But the atmosphere that allows for public anti-Semitic statements and displays, such as street demonstrations, is not present in the United States, she said.

"There's always been a difference between the U.S. and the rest of the world," ADL's Foxman agreed. "Political anti-Semitism has been a part of the European tradition for hundreds of years."

After a modest decrease in anti-Semitic activity in the beginning of 2002, there was a sharp increase in the number of severe attacks at the beginning of April, especially in France, according to the Tel Aviv report. Attacks on synagogues and other Jewish institutions in Europe are on the rise as the violence in the Middle East continues. □

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES****Still fighting in West Bank, Israel faces tension on its other borders***By Gil Sedan*

JERUSALEM (JTA) — As Israel finds itself knee-deep in its conflict with the Palestinians, the Jewish state also has the broader Islamic world to contend with.

Pro-Palestinian demonstrations have been taking place around the world — from New York to Morocco to Bangladesh to Indonesia — on a near-daily basis.

But perhaps most worrisome is the sentiment emanating from Israel's closest neighbors, Lebanon, Egypt and Jordan.

With its teeming Palestinian refugee camps, Lebanon has thousands of people declaring their readiness to fight Israel.

Most threatening are the forces of Hezbollah, which draw military and moral support from Iran and Syria, which is the leading power-broker in Lebanon.

Hezbollah has spent the past week shelling Israeli military positions and communities along the fragile Israel-Lebanon border.

On Saturday, five people were wounded, one seriously, in the village of Ghajar, which straddles the Lebanese border, during a heavy missile and mortar bombardment by Hezbollah forces in Lebanon. A day later, Israel ordered civilians into bomb shelters after Hezbollah launched several cross-border attacks that injured six Israeli soldiers.

After six straight days of Hezbollah attacks, Israel called up additional reserve units on Monday to serve near the Lebanese border. Many of the Hezbollah attacks focused on Israeli military positions in a disputed border area known as Shabaa Farms.

Hezbollah and the Lebanese government claim the area belongs to Lebanon. The United Nations has rejected the claim, saying it was Syrian territory that Israel captured in the 1967 Six-Day War, and its fate must be decided between Israel and Syria.

Apart from territorial aspirations, Hezbollah has another goal — to drag the Israel Defense Force into another battlefield and drain Israel's resources, just as Israel has called up thousands of reservists to deal with the Palestinian conflict.

Israel has responded by firing artillery and rockets at Hezbollah positions in southern Lebanon, but otherwise is adopting a policy of restraint.

Instead, through U.S. intermediaries and other diplomatic channels, Israel has warned Hezbollah, Lebanon and Syria that it will retaliate if its back gets pressed to the wall.

To date, Israel has not launched a large-scale retaliation — even after six Israelis were killed and seven wounded by terrorists on March 12 while driving inside Israel close to the Lebanese border, an attack that Israel subsequently said was carried out by Hezbollah infiltrators.

It's unclear how much longer Israel can absorb Hezbollah's blows — particularly if the Shi'ite gunmen decide to use their batteries of Katyusha rockets, which can reach as far south as Haifa. Maj. Gen. Dan Harel, head of IDF operations, warned last week that "the Palestinian arena, despite all its importance, may soon become secondary to the northern arena."

The Hezbollah provocations create the possibility that, just as American and European pressure could force the IDF to end its anti-terror incursions into the West Bank, the northern front could light up.

Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982 to drive out Palestinian

terrorists, and occupied a "security zone" where it fought a guerilla war against Hezbollah until withdrawing in May 2000.

If Israel does respond, it would be unlikely to send troops back into Lebanon, but it could hit strategic Syrian and Lebanese targets.

The Lebanese government is nervous about the renewed escalation — Prime Minister Rafik Hariri reportedly met several times with Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah to plead for restraint, and leading Lebanese columnists have urged Hezbollah to stop its folly — but the Lebanese government would be reluctant to take steps without Syrian support.

Syria, for its part, pulled forces out of the Lebanese coastal region and placed them in the eastern Beka'a Valley, under the umbrella of its dense anti-aircraft missile batteries.

In addition, Egypt and Jordan, two neighbors that have signed peace treaties with Israel, are showing growing impatience with Israel as the conflict with the Palestinians drags on.

Both countries stopped short of severing diplomatic ties, but Egypt has already declared it will stop all regular diplomatic contact with Israel.

The three fronts are not identical. To the east, the Jordanian government is in total control of its border with Israel, but with 3 million Palestinians — out of a total population of 4.2 million — it has been shaken by the Israeli-Palestinian confrontation.

In the south, despite massive anti-Israel demonstrations in Cairo, Egypt is the country least affected by the escalating situation. Yet it joined the rest of the Arab world in its strong condemnation of the Israeli offensive in the West Bank.

The common denominator to all three fronts is the division between the leadership and the masses regarding Israel.

The Palestinian masses in Jordan, as well as radical elements in Egypt, have demanded strong measures against Israel, and student demonstrators have demanded an Arab army to fight Israel.

The last thing Hariri's government in Lebanon wants is renewed escalation along the border with Israel, which could threaten Lebanon's efforts to rebuild after its decades-long civil war. King Abdullah of Jordan is more afraid of Palestinian insurgency than Israeli aggression, and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt is concerned that protests against Israel could turn into anti-government riots.

Another common denominator in all three countries is their governments' support for the Saudi initiative for peace with Israel, approved by the Arab summit in Beirut in late March.

In a weekend interview with the Arabic TV channel MBC, Marwan Mu'ashar, the foreign minister of Jordan, stressed that the approval had made this not just a "Saudi initiative" but an overall Arab peace plan.

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, who came to the region this week as anti-Israel protests took a strongly anti-American slant, had hoped to progress on the "Arab peace initiative." The idea was to create a channel for peace talks between Israel and the greater Arab world as an alternative to the destroyed Israeli-Palestinian dialogue under Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat.

Such support, Powell hoped, would not only restore relative quiet to the Middle East, but would give American policymakers the necessary breathing room to launch an offensive against a person they consider much more dangerous than Arafat — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

If Powell had hoped to sway the Arab street, however, he was sorely disappointed. On Thursday, as he arrived in Amman, some 500 demonstrators burned the American flag, chanting "Death to America" and "Death to Bush." □