



# Daily News Bulletin

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85th Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Sharon approves building fence

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon approved the construction of a fence between Israel and the West Bank.

The fence, which will cover about one-third of the unmarked border, will run about 75 miles, from northeast of Tel Aviv to southeast of Haifa, according to The Associated Press. It will be built in an area where Israel is at its narrowest.

### Arafat proposes security changes

Yasser Arafat met Tuesday with CIA Director George Tenet in Ramallah for talks on security reforms. The Palestinian Authority president presented a plan to reduce the number of Palestinian security forces by half and tighten their supervision, with Arafat remaining the head of a "supreme security council."

The meeting came amid reports that Abdel Razak Yehiyeh, who has been involved in security talks with Israel, had been chosen to head a new, centralized security apparatus. The appointment of Yehiyeh was seen as a snub of Mohammad Dahlan, head of the Preventive Security Service in the Gaza Strip, who had been expected to be given that post.

### Annan visits Babi Yar

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan visited the memorial at Babi Yar during a trip to Ukraine.

"I wanted to visit Babi Yar to express my solidarity with the victims of anti-Semitism and intolerance, and as a sign of my resolve to do everything in my power to fight the hatred and evil that so disfigure our world," Annan said Monday.

He also said attacks on synagogues in Europe recently "should trouble people everywhere who are concerned about human rights and human dignity."

### Jewish movie titan dies

Lew Wasserman, one of the biggest Hollywood moguls of the 20th century, died Monday at his home in Beverly Hills, Calif.

A major giver to Jewish causes, including Birthright Israel, Wasserman was credited with changing the talent agency business.

Born in Cleveland in 1913 to Russian immigrants, Wasserman oversaw production of such blockbusters as "Jaws," "E.T.: The Extraterrestrial" and "Jurassic Park."

## FOCUS ON ISSUES

### Lack of teens for Israel trips puts programs' future in jeopardy

By Julie Wiener

NEW YORK (JTA) — Last summer was a bad year for providers of teen touring programs in Israel. This summer will be considerably worse.

Providers say that the sharp declines in the number of young adults traveling to Israel is threatening the long-term viability of Israel experience programs.

Israel trips boomed in the 1990s amid widespread optimism about the prospects for Middle East peace, backing from prominent philanthropists and research indicating that trips to Israel were one of the most powerful ways to boost the Jewish identity of North Americans.

But this summer, the number of North American young adults visiting the Jewish state is down by an estimated 50 percent to 90 percent from 2000, the last summer before the violent Palestinian intifada began driving away tourists.

Advocates for such programs worry that even if the situation in Israel improves, it will take a long time to rebuild their infrastructure and convince American Jews that Israel trips are an important rite of passage.

For summer programs, most of which depart in late June and last five or six weeks, the situation has never looked bleaker. Among the data:

- Most community-wide, Jewish federation-sponsored teen trips have been canceled, as have the Zionist youth movement's Habonim Dror program in Israel. Habonim instead is offering a summer camp program in upstate New York for kids who would have gone to Israel.

- The Reform movement, once the largest single provider of teen trips to Israel, is sending only 10 to 20 kids this summer. "It's a far cry from the 1,391 kids we had two years ago," said Paul Reichenbach, director of youth programs for the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. Last summer, the UAHC canceled its teen programs in Israel altogether.

- The Conservative movement's United Synagogue Youth is sending 100 teens, compared with an average of 450 to 650 before the intifada. The movement's Camp Ramah is sending 70, compared with 230 in previous years.

- The Orthodox Union is sending 80 teens — most of them day school students who will be studying, rather than touring most of the summer. It has cancelled its Israel touring program — which used to send more than 100 each year — for public school students. Before the intifada, 400 teens went on the study programs and the touring programs attracted more than 200.

- Birthright Israel sent 5,700 young adults aged 18 to 26 from all over the world — with the United States sending the largest contingent — on free 10-day trips to Israel last summer. This year, officials are declining to give specific registration numbers, saying they are still accepting applications. However, a spokesperson said anywhere from 1,000 to 5,000 Americans are expected to participate.

Despite the small numbers, most groups say they are pleased to be sending anyone at all this summer, given a steady spate of terrorist attacks.

Most programs had heavy security and almost no unstructured free time last summer, and are taking additional precautions this year. For example, USY will house teens on campuses in the suburbs of Jerusalem, rather than in hotels in the city. It also is allowing participants to bring cell phones so their parents can reach them instantly.

One bright spot, at least for now, is that registration for more intensive Israel experiences — such as yearlong, post-high school programs — that attract youth from

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Mubarak: Palestinians need state

Hosni Mubarak said he plans to press President Bush for the declaration of a Palestinian state early next year.

In an interview with The New York Times that appeared Tuesday, the Egyptian president also said he would urge Bush when the two meet later this week to urge the international community to pressure Israel and the Palestinians to return to the negotiating table.

### Hezbollah planning large attack

The chief of Israeli military intelligence warned that Hezbollah may try to carry out a large-scale attack in a bid to elicit a harsh Israeli response.

In a briefing Tuesday before a legislative committee, Maj. Gen. Aharon Ze'evi said Hezbollah had recently deployed a large number of Katyusha rockets in southern Lebanon aimed at Israel.

### Beilin launches new movement

Labor Party dove Yossi Beilin launched a new Israeli political movement. The name of the movement, *Shahar*, means "dawn" in Hebrew and also is the acronym for peace, education and welfare.

Addressing supporters in Tel Aviv on Monday night, Beilin left open the possibility of working within the Labor Party in the next elections if Benjamin Ben-Eliezer is replaced as party leader.

### Mad cow case confirmed

Results from a Swiss lab confirmed Israel's first case of mad cow disease. Brain samples from a Golan Heights cow confirmed that it was infected with the disease, Israel Radio reported.

Because of the finding, the report said, Israeli health officials will implement emergency procedures, which require testing all cattle over the age of 30 months and banning the sale of any meat products that were not tested.



## Daily News Bulletin

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highly committed Jewish families is holding steady or even growing.

Young Judaea has 140 people registered for its year program, and is still receiving applications. This year it sent 150, its highest enrollment ever. Habonim Dror also is expecting its usual year course enrollment — between 20 and 30.

USY's yearlong Nativ program is expecting at least the usual enrollment of between 35 and 45 high school graduates, and possibly more.

Yossi Garr, USY's central shaliach, or Israel emissary, said the group is "pleasantly surprised" by the success of the year course and believes it is doing better than summer programs because "the families sending their kids on the year programs are especially committed."

The courses also may be doing better because participants feel like this is their only opportunity, he said.

With "a summer program you can always say, 'If I don't go this summer, I can go next year,'" Garr said. "With a year program, especially like Nativ, if you don't go now it's not going to happen. And some of these kids have been planning for four years that they want to go."

Enrollments in post-high school yeshiva programs, attended primarily by Orthodox Jews, have been considerably less affected by the violence in Israel.

Details on study abroad programs at Israeli universities were not available, but the programs — which generally enroll many first-time visitors to Israel — appear to have more in common with the summer teen programs than the year courses.

The situation is taking its toll on infrastructure.

Most Israel programs say they have been forced to cut staff in Israel and the United States. Some, like Young Judaea, have been bailed out somewhat by the national organizations that sponsor them.

In addition, several philanthropists — including Birthright founders Michael Steinhardt and Charles Bronfman — have provided funds for a new organization, the Alliance for Educational Programs in Israel, that is helping six Israel programs not linked to larger Jewish groups.

So far, the group's members include teen programs like the Alexander Muss High School in Israel, and programs for recent college graduates, like Machon Pardes, a coeducational yeshiva.

In exchange for low-interest loans and consulting help, alliance member groups are streamlining their budgets and combining resources on several projects, including a special trip this summer for 400 alumni of Birthright Israel trips.

However, officials with other Israel programs warn that without a broader effort, the very future of Israel education for young adults is in danger.

"We're hoping groups will come back next year, but we all realize we're facing a five- to 10-year re-education project for the teens and their parents to understand what it means to make Israel a part of your ongoing educational ladder and sequence," said Rabbi Sheldon Dorph, national director of Camp Ramah.

For groups like Ramah, which operates several summer camps across North America, the drop in Israel programs is expected to have ripple effects in their camps at a time when they are under pressure to offer more, not less, Israel education.

Traditionally, campers at Ramah, the UAHC camps and Young Judaea have gone to Israel, rather than to camp, the summer they are 16. They return to camp the following year as junior counselors.

In those movements, the Israel summer usually revs up the future counselors, enabling them to share their enthusiasm for Israel with their charges the following summer.

Graduates of the Reform movement's Israel program "were great role models as staff members in our camps," the UAHC's Reichenbach said. However, because the UAHC sent no teens to Israel last summer and is sending few this year, in the coming years "many fewer of our counselors will have had an Israel experience."

Ramah's Dorph said, "Next year, most of our junior counselors — who give all that spirit to the kids coming up — will not have been to Israel."

The absence of such graduates will make it harder to recruit for Israel trips in the coming years, he said.

"Compared to what Israel is facing now, this is a small piece, but educationally it's a major issue," Dorph said. □

## JEWISH WORLD

### Canadian union blasts Israel

The Ontario Region of the Canadian Jewish Congress lashed out at a public workers union that issued an anti-Israel statement. Jewish leaders were incensed after a local division of the Canadian Union of Public Employees endorsed a statement calling on Israel to "immediately end its current military assaults" and "withdraw from the occupied territories."

The resolution, which originated with the Canada Palestinian Support Network, makes no mention of Palestinian suicide bombers or other terrorists that have killed hundreds of Israeli civilians in recent months. Ed Morgan, chair of the CJC's Ontario Region, expressed amazement that the large union had taken such a "one-sided position" without consulting five of its Toronto locals — which are Jewish agencies, including the CJC's own support staff. Union officials "seem to have had time to call outside politicians about their initiative but not to consult with their own members," Morgan said.

### German extremist fined for slur

A right-wing extremist must pay a fine of nearly \$3,000 for calling German Jewish leader Michel Friedman a "Gypsy-Jew." Hermann Reichertz, a former member of Germany's far-right Republican Party, used the term in a pamphlet distributed in November.

In its ruling this week, Bavaria's Supreme Court overturned a previous ruling that "Gypsy" and "Jew" are neutral terms and that no slur was involved. That ruling prompted a wave of protests, which in turn prompted the government of the state of Bavaria to order a new trial.

### Palestinian charged with assault

Police charged a Palestinian leader in Canada with assault two months after a prominent doctor was injured at a Palestinian protest.

Dr. Bernard Goldman, a 66-year-old heart surgeon and recipient of the Order of Canada, stepped out of a downtown bookstore into the March 30 protest near the Israeli Consulate in Toronto. When he said, "Stop the suicide bombings" to one of the protesters, he was shoved to the ground, and his shoulder was dislocated and broken. Murad Awin Ebeid, 37, surrendered to police in May. He is scheduled to appear in court July 11.

### Jews blamed for Stalin horrors

Anti-Semitic leaflets were posted in the Ukrainian city of Lviv.

The leaflets, which appeared Sunday, blamed Jews for Stalin's terror famine in the 1930s that killed millions of Ukrainians, according to the Union of Councils for Jews in the Former Soviet Union.

## Its title may be altered, but speech by Muslim student stirs controversy

By Jacob Horowitz  
The Jewish Advocate

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (JTA) — What's in a name? According to some Jewish students at Harvard University, quite a bit.

Harvard senior Zayed Yasin was slated to address the college's graduation ceremony Thursday with his newly titled speech, "Of Faith and Citizenship."

The original title of his address, "Of Faith and Citizenship: My American Jihad," caused a campus uproar and gained national attention when it was announced a week ago.

Whether or not the speech causes any controversy when it is given, the pre-speech furor indicates some of the campus tensions over issues related to the Middle East.

Yasin, 22, the former president of the Harvard Islamic Society, was chosen by a faculty panel to be one of three student speakers to give an address at the upcoming commencement. His speech, in which only the title has been changed, refers to the term jihad as a personal struggle for finding one's self.

In the Islamic tradition, the term has many meanings. Jihad generally has been translated in the West as Islamic "holy war" — and sensitivities to its usage have significantly increased since the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

Yasin changed the title of his speech after a grass-roots campaign was launched on campus. Hilary Levey, a senior sociology major, along with over 3,500 others, has signed a petition calling for Yasin to condemn "violence in the name of jihad."

"I was so shocked," when hearing of the speech's original title, Levey said. "I felt like I had been kicked in the stomach. When you think of jihad, you think of planes flying into a building," she added in a statement to the Harvard Crimson.

Allowing Yasin "to speak at the commencement is appalling," said the parent of one graduating senior who asked not to be identified. "His speech makes graduates feel uncomfortable and uneasy at a time when they are supposed to be jubilant."

Michael Shinagel, one of the university deans who judged the commencement oration competition, defended his panel's decision in *The New York Times*.

"His 'jihad,' like ours, is to promote justice and understanding in ourselves and in our society. The audience will find his oration a light of hope and reason in a world often darkened by distrust and conflict," Shinagel said.

The chair of the panel that chose student commencement speakers is Richard Thomas, an active supporter of the effort by Harvard and MIT faculty calling to divest from Israel. In response, 4,000 Harvard and MIT faculty, students and staff have signed a counterpetition calling the divestment effort "a one-sided attempt to delegitimize Israel."

The controversy surrounding Yasin, however, is deeper than the title of his speech. As president of the school's Islamic society, he raised money for the Texas-based Holy Land Foundation — a charity that the U.S. Treasury Department has listed as a supporter of Hamas. The Treasury Department seized the group's assets last December.

In an interview with the Harvard Crimson last December, Yasin said the Holy Land Foundation was justified in supporting the widows and orphans of Palestinian suicide bombers.

It is "absolutely unconscionable to attack an organization that takes care of the poor, the sick because you disagree with the causes that may have contributed to these people's destitution," Yasin was quoted as saying.

In a recent editorial, *New York Daily News* columnist Zev Chafets compared the Holy Land Foundation to the Ku Klux Klan, and wrote of the chaos that would be caused if a speaker addressed the commencement with a speech entitled, "American Cross Burning."

In a statement issued last week, Harvard President Lawrence Summers said, "We live in times when, understandably, many people at Harvard and beyond are apprehensive about events in the Middle East and possible reverberations in American life. Yet, especially in a university, it is important for people to keep open minds, listen carefully to one another and react to the totality of what each speaker has to say." □

## As Annan prepares Jenin report, Jewish groups step up for Israel

By Rachel Pomerance

NEW YORK (JTA) — As the head of the United Nations readies a report on Israel's recent military operation in the Jenin refugee camp, American Jewish organizations are weighing in with a 150-page document in Israel's defense.

Acting to fulfill a U.N. General Assembly resolution, Secretary-General Kofi Annan is slated to report to the assembly in approximately four weeks.

Israel is expected to refuse to participate in Annan's inquiry, but the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations has prepared a document that it says shows Israel's army operated properly in the camp.

In a cover letter to Annan, the Conference of Presidents wrote, "While we believe that the General Assembly resolution calling for the report on what transpired in Jenin is fundamentally wrong and ill-founded, we felt it important that information that has come to our attention from published and other accounts be made available for your consideration."

The document contains eyewitness accounts by Israeli soldiers at Jenin and news articles debunking the massacre myth.

Israel has insisted its house-to-house raid in Jenin was a fierce but cautious battle in response to numerous terrorist attacks launched from the refugee camp.

The April invasion prompted charges of Israeli human rights abuses and calls for a U.N. fact-finding mission into allegations of a massacre — a claim now widely discredited as Palestinian propaganda.

Israel agreed to the fact-finding mission but then backtracked, fearing the mission was becoming a kangaroo court conducted by a biased team.

The Arab bloc has led a number of efforts at the United Nations to indict Israel for alleged misconduct in Jenin. Annan's impending report stems from the latest such effort.

After Israel refused to cooperate with the fact-finding mission in April, Annan disbanded his team.

The Security Council then deliberated over Israel's recalcitrance, but the threat of an American veto prevented the council from agreeing on any action.

The matter then moved to the General Assembly, where resolutions are only symbolic and no country has veto power, making it a frequent target for condemnation of Israel.

The body passed a resolution expressing concern over the "grave breaches of international humanitarian law committed in the Jenin refugee camp" by the "Israeli occupying forces," condemning "the refusal by Israel, the occupying power, to cooperate with the Secretary-General's fact-finding team," and asking Annan to present a report on the issue by "drawing upon the available resources and information."

That resolution passed 74-4 with 54 abstentions on May 7. With the vote coming just hours after a Palestinian bomber killed 15 Israelis and wounded more than 60 in Rishon le-Zion, many countries that normally vote against Israel abstained.

Stephane Dujarric, a spokesman for Annan, refused to say how much evidence had been collected or by whom, but said the report will be "sourced."

Israel will likely abstain from submitting its conclusions for the report as a matter of principle, and Israeli officials predict the

report will be biased. "Why would we cooperate with something we voted against?" one Israeli official asked. Still, Israel salutes the Conference of Presidents' attempt to "pull the mask off the face of the Palestinians," the official said.

The Conference of Presidents, an umbrella organization for 54 American Jewish groups, asked member organizations to collect evidence for submission.

One Israeli fighter wrote: "During the week of the incursion into Jenin, the area was a closed military zone. However, contrary to what was reported, humanitarian aid was allowed in, and I myself personally checked many of the hundreds of trucks that were allowed in to deliver supplies to the Palestinians. This was carefully coordinated with the army to ensure that innocent civilians would receive the supplies and to minimize the risks of those entering the areas."

The closure of the area to the media fueled rumors of a massacre, but the soldier wrote that the area was barred because it had been "booby trapped by the terrorists, and minefields awaited those that entered."

"Soldiers inside the refugee camp told me of not being able to move five meters at a time without having to diffuse another pipe bomb or mine," he continued. "Many of the houses destroyed were done so by bombs planted by the very residents of the camp. Some of the dead bodies were also booby trapped with grenades and mines awaiting Israeli soldiers."

An Israeli peace activist wrote that the city of Jenin, just 100 yards from the camp, remained unscathed.

"The army reservists with whom I entered the area told me that the reason that there was no devastation was simply because no one shot at or attacked the Israeli reservists from these buildings and, therefore, there was no reason to shoot back," the activist said.

The document details the extent to which the refugee camp had become what one Israeli official called a "fortress of terror," where terrorists used women and children as decoys to draw Israeli soldiers into ambushes. It also details what it calls media bias and the Israeli army's honorable treatment of Palestinian civilians.

Some Conference of Presidents members objected to the process by which the report was produced. One organizational leader said he hadn't known about the project at all.

"I don't know who prepared it, who decided what is in and what is out," he said.

Furthermore, a "compilation of articles and e-mails" is not a serious response by the Jewish community on this grave issue, he said.

"I don't think we need to give the secretary-general articles from *The Wall Street Journal*."

But Neil Goldstein, executive director of the American Jewish Congress, said a conference member would "have to be blind" to be unaware of the effort, which was publicized by both fax and e-mail. It was "perfectly appropriate for" the conference "to serve as collector of the information," Goldstein said.

While conference members were concerned about the "potentially prejudicial investigation of the Jenin refugee camp," the report "could have been done more consultatively," said Mark Rosenblum, founder and policy director of Americans for Peace Now.

It "would make sense for organizations that are a part of the conference to have a chance to see the report" and pose questions before it was submitted, he said.

"That would have been a credible and efficient way for an umbrella group to operate," Rosenblum said. □