



# Daily News Bulletin

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85th Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### At least 19 killed in bombing

At least 19 Israelis were killed and 52 wounded in a suicide bombing in Jerusalem on Tuesday.

The explosion occurred on a crowded bus during the morning rush hour. [Page 1]

### Report: Arafat won't be expelled

Israeli officials reportedly decided not to expel Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat following the latest terror attack.

The decision was reached Tuesday after Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Defense Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer discussed Israel's response to Tuesday's suicide bombing in Jerusalem, according to the Israeli daily Ha'aretz.

### White House address not finalized

The White House has yet to agree on the content of a major Middle East policy speech by President Bush, sources tell JTA.

The speech reportedly has been written by the State Department, but it has not been approved by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice, the sources say.

Bush will not deliver the speech before Thursday because of Tuesday's suicide attack in Jerusalem, they add.

Members of the U.S. House of Representatives told a State Department official that any declaration of a provisional Palestinian government would be a mistake.

"President Bush must make it clear to Chairman Yasser Arafat and the Palestinian people that no state will ever be declared, provisionally or otherwise, unless the violence ends," Rep. Benjamin Gilman (R-N.Y.), chairman of the subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia, said at a hearing Tuesday.

### Sharon visits bombing scene

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon visited the site of Tuesday's suicide bombing in Jerusalem.

Standing near body bags lined up on the pavement, he voiced opposition to declaring a Palestinian state any time soon.

"The horrible pictures we saw here today of these murderous acts by the Palestinians are stronger than any words," he said. "What kind of Palestinian state do they intend to create? What are they talking about?"

## Bombing kills Gilo residents, and neighborhood's sense of normalcy

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — A young woman, a dedicated bus driver, a woman who worked with several presidents.

The 19 Israelis killed when a Palestinian terrorist blew himself up on Egged bus 32A on Tuesday morning were a cross section of Israel and of Gilo, the Jerusalem neighborhood where most of the victims lived.

Among the victims identified so far were Boaz Aluf, 54; Leah Baruch, 59; Gila Nakav, 55; Shiri Negari, 21; Liat Yagen, 24; Rahamim Zidkiyahu, 51; Yelena Ivan, 33; Tatiana Braslavski, 41; Galila Bugale, 11; Mendel Berzon, 72; and Baruch Gruani, 56. All were Jerusalem residents.

Tuesday's bombing also killed something else: the belief many Gilo residents had that their lives were finally returning to normal.

For the past year and a half, residents of this neighborhood on the southern outskirts of Jerusalem had weathered Palestinian gunfire from the direction of Beit Jalla, next to Bethlehem.

Several months of recent quiet had fostered hope that perhaps life was returning to normal.

Yet a cloud of grief descended over Gilo on Tuesday as staffers at the local community center fielded seemingly endless calls with news and funeral details of residents who were among the 19 victims of a suicide bus bombing.

While not all the names of the victims were released Tuesday, reports said 14 of the 19 people killed were residents of the community.

Final preparations had been under way in Gilo for a festive dedication ceremony for a new sports center.

As it turned out, the stage would have to be used instead for memorial services.

"We lived through one and a half years without so many physical injuries, though certainly sustaining emotional ones," which led residents to believe "that somehow we would get through it," Yaffa Shetreet, a staff member of the neighborhood council, told Channel Two news. "We believed we had a sort of communal invulnerability. But it's all been shattered."

Shiri Negari, who was two weeks shy of her 22nd birthday, was on her way to work in a bank when the bomber struck on the 32A bus. She was wounded and died of her injuries in a hospital.

Family members described Negari as warm and smiling. Since returning to Israel from a trip to South America, she was full of plans, and was due to begin university in the fall, they said.

"All of this crying doesn't suit her," Negari's sister, Sheli, told Channel Two. "She was so happy. So strong. Someone who does things. Especially after she came home from South America, there were so many things she wanted to do."

Her sister recalled the deliberations that had preceded Negari's return to Israel.

"Everyone said she should come back, we had several weddings over the summer," Sheli Negari said. "I told her that if she's having so much fun, maybe she should stay there. My mother said the situation here is so bad that maybe she should stay there, because it's difficult to say where it's safer."

Negari was conscious when she was admitted to a hospital after the attack. Just before she was to undergo surgery, however, it became apparent that her injuries were more extensive than initially thought. She later succumbed to them. "I'm studying medicine, and I'd like to believe that a person can be strong and help. But actually,

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Powell to return to Middle East?

President Bush may send Secretary of State Colin Powell to the Middle East soon to try to promote peace.

A senior U.S. official told The Associated Press on Tuesday that a Powell mission could take place as early as next week, but that Bush had not made a decision yet.

### Suspected terrorist behind bomb?

A suspected Palestinian terrorist killed by Israeli snipers Monday may have masterminded Tuesday's bus bombing in Jerusalem.

Israeli security sources were quoted as saying that Walid Sbeh, a member of the Al-Aksa Brigade in the Bethlehem area, may have dispatched the bomber who carried out Tuesday's attack.

Israeli snipers killed Sbeh on Monday in a village near Bethlehem.

Israeli officials charged that he had been involved in numerous bomb and shooting attacks against Israeli civilians and soldiers in the area.

### Palestinian killed at roadblock

An armed Palestinian was shot and killed Tuesday at an Israeli roadblock.

Israeli soldiers opened fire after the Palestinian pulled a gun on them at the roadblock between Israel and the West Bank.

### 628 Palestinians arrested in May

Israeli security officials say they arrested 628 Palestinian terror suspects last month.

Of these, 250 provided Israeli interrogators with information that helped prevent terror attacks, an army official told a Knesset committee Tuesday, the Israeli daily Ha'aretz reported.

A senior intelligence official told the committee that the Palestinian Authority is doing nothing to prevent terror, the report said.



## Daily News Bulletin

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we're nothing," her sister said. "When someone is really hurt, you can't help them."

Negari is survived by her parents and four siblings.

Rahamim Zidkiyahu, the driver of the bus, was not supposed to be driving the bus the suicide bomber boarded on Tuesday. But a colleague was late and Zidkiyahu, who wanted to finish the route in time to catch a World Cup soccer match, insisted on taking the earlier route.

"All he wanted to do was finish in peace," Rami Yitzhakov told Channel Two. "He wanted to get back in time to watch soccer. It was six fateful minutes."

Colleagues described Zidkiyahu as hard-working and dedicated, a warm person who loved to laugh. An Egged employee for 27 years, they said he knew many of the passengers on the line. He was married and a father of four.

"He was full of life, young at heart," a relative was quoted as saying. He was "an exemplary father who always wanted to help others."

Despite the difficult security situation — and even after terrorist attacks — Zidkiyahu showed no fear of driving, colleagues said. He insisted that it was a duty to continue serving the public, they said.

Tuesday's attack exposed the apprehensions of drivers, who realize that buses are prime targets for terrorist attacks.

Many attributed their survival to luck.

"How do we know if it's a terrorist?" one driver, identified only as Amnon, told Channel Two. "If he doesn't explode, he's not a suicide bomber."

Leah Baruch, 59, boarded the bus Tuesday morning on her way to the president's residence, where she had worked for the past 23 years.

"Leah was an asset," colleague Sima Shariki told the Israeli daily Yediot Achronot. "Among those she worked with were the presidents the late Chaim Herzog, Ezer Weizman and Moshe Katsav. They all loved her."

"She was a wonderful woman, always ready to give of herself. If she saw an injured cat, she would take it in," Shariki continued. "She loved plants and animals. She loved life."

Baruch was described as an avid reader.

She was divorced and is survived by two children. President Katsav spoke at her funeral on Tuesday. □

## Group blasts Quebec legislator for comments at pro-Palestinian rally

By *Bram Eisenthal*

MONTREAL (JTA) — A branch of the Canadian Jewish Congress is criticizing the speaker of the Quebec legislature for making anti-Israel comments at a pro-Palestinian rally.

"It is totally unacceptable" for Louise Harel "to have been present at — much less to have publicly supported the organizers of — this partisan demonstration," the president of the CJC's Quebec region, Joseph Gabay, said.

At the June 8 rally, Harel reportedly called the situation in the region "inhuman." While the language may have sounded neutral, the context of her speech made clear that Harel was criticizing Israel, Jewish groups said.

Other speakers compared Israeli military retaliation for Palestinian terror attacks to the actions of the South African anti-apartheid movement. A rally organizer stated that Israel's actions are responsible for the spate of Palestinian attacks.

In the National Assembly last week, Harel commented on a news release issued by the CJC condemning her attendance at the rally.

"I care to mention that my presence was carried out as a concerned citizen worried about peace and justice, and that I neither acted nor gave to understand that I was acting in the performance of my duties as president of the National Assembly," Harel said.

Gabay disagrees.

"The speaker is elected by members from every party, representing all Quebecers," he said. "Her suggestion to reporters that she was attending 'a titre personnel,' — or in her own name only — "is a meaningless distinction. In public, the speaker of the National Assembly carries the burden of his or her role." □

## JEWISH WORLD

### AJCongress halts France trips

The American Jewish Congress suspended its tour programs to France.

The group said in an ad in Monday's New York Times that it took the move because the French government is not doing enough to crack down on anti-Semitic violence.

Last year, the AJCongress sent about 600 people to France on educational tours involving sites of Jewish interest.

### U.S. mayors blast terrorism

The American Jewish Congress welcomed a resolution adopted by the U.S. Conference of Mayors condemning Palestinian terrorism.

Approved Monday, the resolution declared that the "deliberate killing of civilians is an abomination and cannot be rationalized or justified as the result of any situation or circumstance."

Applauding the resolution, AJCongress President Jack Rosen said the move "will be truly heartening to Israel."

The AJCongress helps sponsor an international conference of mayors each year in Jerusalem.

### Ted Turner: Both sides terrorists

Media mogul Ted Turner said both Israel and the Palestinians are engaged in terrorism. "The Palestinians are fighting with human suicide bombers. That's all they have," the founder of CNN and vice chairman of AOL Time Warner, which owns CNN, said in an interview with the London Guardian newspaper. Israel, he added has "one of the most powerful military machines in the world," while the Palestinians "have nothing. So who are the terrorists? I would make a case that both sides are involved in terrorism."

Israeli government spokesman Daniel Seaman lambasted Turner's comments. "My only advice to Ted Turner is if people assume you are stupid, it is just best to keep your mouth shut rather than open your mouth and confirm everyone in that view," Seaman told the newspaper.

CNN put out a disclaimer Tuesday distancing the news network from Turner's statements.

### Illinois to buy Israel Bonds

Illinois officials plan to invest \$10 million in Israel Bonds, according to the state treasurer's office.

The move was made possible by legislation signed into law last week that allows the state to invest in securities of foreign governments.

The move "sends an unmistakably clear message of support for the State of Israel," said state Rep. Jeff Schoenberg, who co-sponsored the bill. Officials representing Arab Americans and Muslims in Illinois denounced the move.

## To make a donation, click on the little blue box icon

By Joe Berkofsky

NEW YORK (JTA) — Some Jewish charities are mining the Internet for donations, and they're discovering a virtual mother lode. A survey of online giving by the Chronicle of Philanthropy found that the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago/Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago and the Jewish National Fund were the biggest Jewish Web success stories of 2001.

The Chicago federation raised \$501,223 online last year, up a whopping 139 percent from the previous year. The JNF raised \$375,000, up 65 percent from 2001.

Though still a digital drop in the bucket compared to the tens of millions of dollars these groups raise the old-fashioned way, the executive vice president of the JNF, Russell Robinson, sees great promise in Web fund raising, which he calls "the blue box of the 21st century."

"Our vision is to raise perhaps in the millions of dollars with e-philanthropy," Robinson said.

Still, Steven Nasatir, president of the Chicago federation, was cautious about hailing Web fund raising as the next big thing.

"I don't think you can create community online," Nasatir said. "It's another tool to connect with people. We believe in the human, face-to-face, touching people and talking with people" brand of fund raising.

Still, Chicago has convinced many of the 1,500 people who surf the federation's Web site each day to click on a pledge box.

The Chicago federation's online efforts likely will remain a modest part of the group's overall fund raising, he added.

The federation raised \$67.2 million in its 2001 campaign, he said, and its regular and Israel Emergency campaigns are on target to bring in \$100 million this year.

Trying to raise money exclusively online "would be a very bad idea," Nasatir said.

Similarly, while the JNF's electronic fund raising is generating heat, the group raises far more in the physical world.

In 2001, JNF raised \$30.1 million, and \$35.5 million in 2000. JNF's site raised \$227,000 in 2000 and \$100,000 in 1999.

Initially, JNF's online donations were intended solely for its principal endeavors — forestation and water projects in Israel.

As of April, the tree-planting donations swelled 47 percent over the same period last year.

When the JNF began accepting direct donations in March, it took in \$25,000 from its 8,500 monthly Web users, and that amount has grown to \$50,000 since.

Unlike Chicago's federation, JNF is taking an aggressive approach to online fund raising. JNF sent solicitations about e-fund raising to 35,000 people on an e-mail list, according to Sarina Roffe, JNF's director of communications.

But it remains unclear whether Jewish groups can increase their online fund raising. Mark Charendoff, associate executive director of the Jewish Funders Network, said Jewish nonprofits remain in the early stages of hunting for digital donations.

"We'll have to see if this is a convenient alternative to writing a check," Charendoff said. "It's the convenience factor for the consumer."

In fact, Charendoff said that the few Jewish forays into online fund raising are largely aimed at "impulse giving" rather than more ambitious sums.

"The challenge to Jewish not-for-profits is to make the Web more than an alternative to writing a check and putting it in the mail," he added. "I'm not sure it is."

The June survey of 126 large organizations raising money online included seven major Jewish charities or institutions. Besides the Chicago federation and JNF, they were:

- UJA-Federation of New York, which raised \$65,646 online in 2001;
- Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, \$40,051 in 2001;
- Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston, \$37,008 in 2001;
- The National Jewish Medical and Research Center in Denver, \$4,262 in 2001; and
- The Greater Miami Jewish Federation, \$2,500 in 2001. □

## Bombing, controversial remarks disrupt Zionist Congress gathering

By Jessica Steinberg and Matthew E. Berger

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The opening of the 34th World Zionist Congress didn't turn out exactly as expected this week, as elections for officers and debates regarding Israel as a Jewish and democratic state were put on hold when a bomb exploded on a crowded Jerusalem bus.

Neither did remarks by Chaim Chesler, treasurer of the Jewish Agency for Israel and the World Zionist Organization, who sparked a furor Tuesday when he said he prefers an immigrant from the former Soviet Union who might not be Jewish according to Jewish law than "to someone who prays three times a day but stays in Brooklyn."

"It was a slap in the face," said Mandell Ganchrow, executive vice president of World Mizrahi, as well as the head of the delegation of the Religious Zionists of America.

"It was inflammatory and cruel, and the worst part is that this isn't the time to be throwing bricks at each other," said Ganchrow, who was among those who rushed the convention center stage in protest after Chesler's remarks. "Not when we're being blown up on buses."

The news of Tuesday's suicide bombing, which killed at least 19 Israelis, clearly rattled the delegates to the Zionist Congress, which is touted as the parliament of the Jewish people, bringing together delegates from all over the world.

But so did Chesler's remarks, which many saw as inappropriate given the sense of Jewish unity the congress was trying to promote.

The 750-seat congress convenes every four to five years to negotiate the policy of the World Zionist Organization.

The WZO makes up half the decision-making power of the Jewish Agency.

That means influence over the agency's \$350 million budget, which focuses on immigration and absorption, as well as worldwide religious, political and educational programs.

In addition to discussing Jewish solidarity with Israel, a major debate was expected over whether and how to forge consensus over a resolution about Israel as a Jewish and democratic state.

Some saw the opportunity to push for the acceptance of religious pluralism and the acceptance by Israel of non-Orthodox religious streams.

Against this backdrop came Chesler's remarks, which were critical of Interior Minister Eli Yishai's handling of converts and Russian immigrants who come to Israel under the Law of Return, which enables citizenship for anyone with a Jewish grandparent.

"We should salute each and every immigrant who comes to Israel under the Law of Return and we must battle against the discrimination of the Jews from Russia who are being transformed into second-class citizens," Chesler said.

His remarks caused an immediate uproar, prompting him to issue a statement, saying, "I do not seek argument but rather cooperation between the religious streams."

He added: "The Zionist movement must be progressive, open, liberal, and unite everyone together around it. Arguments are entirely legitimate, but we must ultimately all work together."

A national officer of the American Zionist Movement said he believed Tuesday's actions, both the terror on the streets and at the

convention center, would not affect the central debate over pluralism.

"Pluralism is a word which has created differences in the American community," Isaac Blackhov said. "Israelis do not understand it the same way as Americans, and it has an entirely different connotation."

Blackhov said he believed the word pluralism would be deleted from almost every resolution the Congress debates, because of its ambiguity.

But for Rabbi Uri Regev, the executive director of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, which represents the Reform movement in Israel, the fact that the largest number of Congress delegates come from synagogue-related organizations could mean that religious pluralism is the burning issue that must be discussed.

The Chesler comment created a "raucous" scene, he said, but raised the one issue that is critical to Israel's future character.

"This isn't just about raising money for kindergartens, and trauma centers and ambulances," Regev said.

"We're trying to discuss and discover and ultimately decide Israel's future."

Bonnie Lipton, national president of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, said she had hoped Tuesday's suicide bombing attack would unite the organization.

"There still was an outbreak of inappropriate and disrespectful behavior," she said, referring to Chesler's comments. "It's made even more offensive, given the terrible tragedy."

Elana Gershen Finkelstein, a New Jersey delegate for Mercaz USA, which represents the Conservative movement, said she believed Tuesday's attack "quieted the whole conference down."

"There are differences, but the background in which we have these discussions changed," she said, seated with her mother before a memorial service to victims of terrorism, planned before Tuesday's attack.

"There are life-and-death issues."

WZO delegates had hoped to visit the site of the attack, but were stopped for security reasons.

While some people expressed anger at being turned away, others said they understood the inconvenience of having busloads of people at a crime scene.

Lipton, who was at one of Hadassah's hospitals in Jerusalem when victims of the suicide bombing were brought in, said she believes delegates may have a delayed reaction to the attack.

She said he hoped that future sessions would be more unified.

"There is an intense need to try and bring the Jewish people together," she said.

"There is impatience and frustration over the way we focus on our differences, rather than concern ourselves on what we have in common, which is survival of the Jewish people."

Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, agreed.

"The real issue is the security of the Jewish people, and the answer is Jewish unity," Hoenlein said. "If you lose sight of the critical issue, then all this is counterproductive."

Ganchrow said the chairman of the Jewish Agency, Sallai Meridor, told him two weeks ago that the congress would reaffirm Jewish unity and solidarity, without raising "all that pluralism nonsense."

"We come here to be a part of the Jewish people," he said. "We know there are things that divide us. Let's not debate what's irreconcilable." □