



# Daily News Bulletin

Vol. 80, No. 116

Friday, June 21, 2002

85th Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### **Palestinians kill 4 Israelis**

At least four Israelis were killed and four wounded Thursday after two Palestinians infiltrated the West Bank settlement of Itamar.

The gunmen holed themselves up in a house and held the residents hostage, according to Channel One television.

At the end of May, three teen-agers were killed when a Palestinian gunman attacked a high school in the settlement, which is not encircled by a security fence.

### **Army widens its operations**

The Israeli army expanded its operations in the West Bank. Soldiers entered the cities of Bethlehem, Nablus and Tulkarm on Thursday in a search for suspected terrorists.

The move came in response to two suicide bombings in Jerusalem that left 26 people dead and more than 100 wounded.

Security forces also entered the town of Betunia near Ramallah and continued operations in the West Bank cities of Kalkilya and Jenin.

### **Israel issues emergency call-up**

Israel's army began issuing emergency call-up orders for reservists Thursday.

For now, the army decided to call up a relatively small number of reservists, who are expected to provide support along the frontier between Israel and the territories, the Israeli daily Ha'aretz reported.

### **Bush postpones policy address**

President Bush temporarily shelved plans to issue a major policy address that was expected to include a call for the creation of a provisional Palestinian state. "I'll give it at the appropriate time," Bush said Thursday of the speech.

Pointing to this week's Palestinian terror attacks in Jerusalem and Israel's military retaliation, the White House said a presidential announcement at this time would be unlikely to have a positive impact. "It's obvious that the immediate aftermath" of the twin terror attacks in Jerusalem "is not the right time," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said.

There is real uncertainty what Bush should say and when to say it, a senior U.S. official told The Associated Press.

## **Terror helps bring together delegates at Zionist Congress**

*By Jessica Steinberg*

JERUSALEM (JTA) — It was Adam Deutsch's first time giving blood, and the national president of the Young Judaea youth group was happy that his first donation was to Magen David Adom, the Israeli relief service.

"It's all been very powerful," said Deutsch, 18, a delegate to the World Zionist Congress, who spent Wednesday afternoon with 100 other participants visiting bombing victims at Hadassah — Hebrew University Medical Center in Jerusalem. "It's really been making me think."

The 34th Zionist Congress, which is often called the parliament of the Jewish people, has been disrupted by two bombings in Jerusalem this week.

But for the 750 delegates from around the world attending the four-day conference to discuss Zionism in the 21st century, reports of terrorist attacks affirm their emotional and physical commitment to the Jewish state.

As Deutsch and a steady stream of congress participants lined up to have their blood pressure taken and veins prodded by Magen David Adom staffers, news of a suicide bombing in Jerusalem's French Hill neighborhood drifted through the room.

"You see?" said Leon Schorr, a delegate from Brazil, who was holding a Coke in one hand and a cookie in the other after donating blood. "This is what we have to do. I'm in Jerusalem, I am a Jew, there are bombings. This is the minimum I can do."

In a painfully ironic way, the tension in the country helped unify the delegates: It's easier to feel a sense of unity and solidarity when giving blood or visiting terror victims than debating the values of Zionism, delegates said.

"Usually I'm not in Israel, even though I'm pro-Israel and pro-Zionism," said Julie Berman, a congress observer from Cape Town and mother of two, who has two brothers and a sister living in Israel. "I'm never here for the bomb blasts. I always feel so far away."

But not on Wednesday afternoon, when the congress delegates and observers divided themselves into three groups.

Busloads of delegates went to Ben-Gurion International Airport to greet more than 300 new immigrants arriving in Israel. Another set of buses went to visit new immigrants at absorption centers, and around 100 delegates went with Deutsch to Hadassah's hospital in Ein Kerem to visit victims of recent terrorist attacks.

Dividing themselves into groups of 20, the delegates visited with several victims, including the family of Ronit Elchiani, who was in intensive care as a result of wounds she sustained in Tuesday's bus bombing.

Elchiani's upper body received a major part of the blast, explained Ron Kronish, a spokesman for the hospital. Her head, chest and lungs were riddled with nails and screws from the bomb, and she will require several operations before beginning a lengthy rehabilitation process.

His description elicited several sighs and more than a few tears from the group, which was a cross section of the political parties, organizations and factions that make up the Zionist congress.

But it is particularly these kinds of visits that bind the delegates together, despite often deep political and theological differences, delegates said.

"The congress lets me see both sides of the coin," said Berman, who wore a gold talisman pendant on a chain around her neck and a peace dove pin on her lapel. "It helps me to hear the right-wing side and different degrees of the left. It's been an eye opener."

It was also surprising for some of the congress delegates to find out that the

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Two soldiers killed in Kalkilya

Two Israeli soldiers were killed during an operation Wednesday in Kalkilya.

Maj. Shlomi Cohen, 26, from Rehovot, and Staff Sgt. Yosef Talabi, 20, from Yehud, were killed in a gun battle at the home of a Palestinian Authority intelligence officer suspected of terrorism. The Palestinian officer also was killed.

### Family shattered by bombing

A 5-year-old girl and her grandmother were among the seven Israelis killed in a suicide bombing in Jerusalem on Wednesday evening. Gal Eizenman, 5, from Ma'aleh Adumim and her grandmother, Noa Alon, 60, from Ofra, were killed in the attack.

Four other bombing victims were identified: Michal Franklin, 22, a resident of the Jewish Quarter in Jerusalem's Old City; Gila Sara Kessler, 19, from Eli; Hadassah Jungreis, 20, from Migdal Ha'emek; and Shmuel Yerushalmi, 17, from Shilo. The identity of the seventh victim has not been released for publication.

### Toll from March bombing rises

The death toll in a Jerusalem suicide bombing rose to 11.

Avraham Eliahu Nehmad, 17, of Rishon le-Zion, died Wednesday night of injuries sustained in the March 2 terrorist attack in Jerusalem's Beit Israel neighborhood. His 15-year-old brother, Shaul, also was killed in the attack.

### Israel's P.R. fund runs dry

The public relations budget for Israel's Foreign Ministry has been depleted, Deputy Foreign Minister Michael Melchior said. According to Melchior, the ministry's total P.R. budget is some \$8.3 million.

He said budget cuts have harmed efforts by Israeli representatives abroad to explain the government's policies and improve the country's image.



## 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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hospital treats Arab patients. The patient in the bed next to Elchiani was a Palestinian man with stomach wounds who had been holed up in Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity for two weeks.

The hospital initially believed he was a terrorist, and had two Israeli soldiers guarding his bedside 24 hours a day. Police later discovered he was a captive in the church, and was able to escape before the end of the five-week siege.

"That's the character of the Israeli nation," said Selma Dyckman, a delegate from Amit who was holding a Book of Psalms in order to pray for the sick. "And all they're asking of us is to come visit and sit in a restaurant. It's the least we can do."

At the hospital, social worker Rita Abernoff, director of the hospital's social services, told the group how her team of social workers handles the families of terror victims.

There is a phone center with 20 phone lines staffed by social workers who can update callers with news and details of where victims have been hospitalized. For families that prefer to speak to someone in person, the hospital has set up a center with 24-hour shifts of social workers to speak to families in crisis.

At times, the social workers are occupied with finding all the family members of a terror victim. In accordance with Jewish law and Israeli tradition, the deceased are usually buried on the day they died, but that can't happen until all family members have been notified.

When Shiri Nagari, 22, died of her wounds following Tuesday's bus bombing in Jerusalem, it took five hours until the hospital could locate one of her brothers, a soldier serving in the Gaza Strip.

And when friends came looking for Baiman Aazi Kabhah, 23, an Israeli Arab student who was missing after the bus bombing, the social work staff spent hours tracking down Kabhah's cousin.

"I think it's huge that Hadassah is willing to treat everyone, regardless of who they are," said Deutsch, the Young Judaea president, sipping some water after giving blood.

But the hospital visit "felt kind of strange," he admitted, wondering out loud what he could possibly say to comfort the families. "The only thing I could think of was, 'Yihiyeh tov, it will be OK.'" □

## Jewish educators gain resource as service opens an 'online shop'

By Joe Berkofsky

NEW YORK (JTA) — The Jewish Education Service of North America has opened an "online shop" of teaching materials for Jewish day-school educators.

The Sosland Online Jewish Education Resource Center is a new section of the organization's burgeoning Web site, the building block for what the organization hopes will grow into a "one-stop shop" for Jewish day-school educators, said Steven Kraus, JESNA's director of school support and development.

"We wanted to put the important information people asked us for in one easy place to find," Kraus said.

The virtual center, a storehouse of links to Jewish day-school online resources, was built with the aid of a \$1 million grant from the Sosland Foundation of Kansas City, Mo.

JESNA's overall site at [www.jesna.org](http://www.jesna.org) and the new Sosland Resource Center are aimed at helping Jewish day-school professionals develop and plan teaching programs, Kraus said.

The main site spans six areas, including congregational and communal education; research and evaluation; educator recruitment and development; media and technology; and day schools and youth.

That means users of the site will be able to find information on everything from where to find local day schools — which Kraus said he is frequently asked — to information on day-school advocacy and marketing.

In fact, many of the resources on the Sosland section of the site were included because of questions people asked JESNA, he said. "We're going to build it based on what people tell us is important to them," he said. □

## JEWISH WORLD

### Baltimore leader steps down

The veteran leader of Baltimore's Jewish federation is stepping down. Darrell Friedman, president of The Associated: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, said he will resign, effective June 27, 2003, after 16 years with the organization.

His announcement comes at a time of record growth for the federation, which raised \$29.3 million so far this year and has in recent years taken in some \$30 million annually.

The Associated will launch a search committee to find a successor to Friedman, who did not disclose his plans other than to say that he'll remain active in Jewish life.

### Probe into Clinton pardons over

U.S. prosecutors decided not to file charges against President Clinton for his decision to grant clemency to four Chasidic men just before leaving office.

The prosecutors gave no reason for Thursday's decision.

The case involved four men convicted of bilking the government out of tens of millions of dollars.

All four lived in New Square, a Chasidic town in New York that voted overwhelmingly for Hillary Clinton when she ran successfully for a U.S. senate seat two years ago.

President Clinton later shortened their sentences just before he left office. The prosecutors opened a probe amid suspicions that the clemency was a political payback arranged by Hillary Clinton.

She has said she played no part in her husband's decision. Prosecutors added Thursday that they are still investigating pardons Clinton issued on the eve of leaving office, including one to billionaire Marc Rich. Israeli and U.S. Jewish leaders had lobbied strongly for the Rich pardon.

### Kahane Chai added to terror list

The European Union added a Jewish extremist group to its list of terrorist organizations.

One Israeli official told the Jerusalem Post that the inclusion on the list of Kahane Chai, named after the late Rabbi Meir Kahane, was a surprise, and might have been an attempt at "balance."

The European Union also added several Palestinian groups to its list this week, including the Al-Aksha Brigade, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Palestine Liberation Front and the U.S.-based Holy Land Foundation, which allegedly funneled money to Hamas.

Following the move, the 15 E.U. member states must freeze the assets of the groups on the list. Diplomats said the move is symbolic, because none of the groups is thought to have significant assets in Europe.

## AROUND THE JEWISH WORLD

### Portuguese community trying to show that there's strength in small numbers

By Marcus Moraes

RIO DE JANEIRO (JTA) — It's an exciting time for the few Jews of Portugal.

The country's Jewish community recently celebrated the centenary of the Lisbon Synagogue — officially called Shaare Tikva, or Gates of Hope.

On its 100th anniversary, the synagogue is being fully restored, and a Jewish museum is being built.

At the same time, preparations are under way for the first-ever Congress of the Portuguese Jewish Communities in 2004.

Efforts are beginning to create an umbrella organization, the Federation of the Portuguese Jewish Communities, to serve the estimated 1,200 Jews in Portugal. Government officials put this number higher, at 3,000.

The federation would unite communities in Lisbon, Oporto, Belmonte and the Algarve.

Lisbon, where the Jewish community has 1,000 members, is the largest and wealthiest community.

The expansion of community activities meant that the community's needs could no longer be met by improvisation and volunteering.

To that end, the Lisbon community recently hired a professional executive director: Brazilian Marcos Prist, 33, who previously served as a Jewish activist and community leader in Sao Paulo.

"My goal is to engage Jews at all ages" and integrate the community, Prist told JTA.

Prist's arrival highlights the growing ties between Portuguese Jewry and Brazil's 120,000 Jews. The communities are connected by a common language and the Internet.

But if high-tech ties are kick-starting Portuguese Jewry, a historic building helps to tie them together, and the commemoration at Shaare Tikva was loaded with symbolism.

Designed by the prominent architect Ventura Terra, the Lisbon Synagogue, inaugurated a century ago, crowned more than 50 years of work by the city's Jewish community. Shaare Tikva was one of the first synagogues built in Portugal since the forced conversions and the official destruction of Portuguese Jewry in 1497 during the Inquisition.

"There is a strong symbolism around this for all Portuguese Jews," said Esther Mucznik, vice president of Lisbon's Jewish community.

Portuguese President Jorge Sampaio presided over the ceremony at the synagogue, which is Orthodox.

"This synagogue is a place of worship and gathering of a community, but it is also an important Portuguese cultural and religious asset," Sampaio said. "The future of the Jewish community of Lisbon will contribute, I am certain, to the preservation of a history and of a heritage from which we all will benefit, because knowledge generates understanding."

Despite the excitement, Portuguese Jews face a paucity of numbers. There are not enough people for a daily minyan, Rabbi Shlomo Vaknin says.

Difficult times are nothing new for Jews in Portugal. Only after the severity of the Inquisition declined at the end of the 18th century — it was abolished in 1821 — did Jewish families decide to return to Portugal, many from Morocco and Gibraltar.

Along with their successful integration into everyday Portuguese life, the first Jewish families immediately sought to create a community life, establishing houses of prayer and purchasing land where they could bury their dead according to Jewish tradition. Recognition of the Jewish religion was gained only with the separation of church and state implemented by the republican regime in 1912.

The Lisbon Jewish community remained demographically stable until 1961. Then, the outbreak of the Colonial War in Angola — a former Portuguese territory — caused many young people and even whole families to emigrate, particularly to Israel, to avoid the draft. □

*NOTE TO READERS: Jews everywhere are looking to Israel's leaders to provide a vision for the future. In this special series commissioned by JTA, Israel's top political figures answer the vital question: Where do we go from here? Also included in the series are pieces by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and former Prime Ministers Benjamin Netanyahu and Ehud Barak.*

## Fight terror and build a fence

By Benjamin Ben-Eliezer

JERUSALEM (JTA) – The Israeli Labor Party has always believed that there is no military solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. It has always promoted territorial compromise as a road to a just and lasting solution.

The following plan is an attempt to set out a road map for a renewed political process. Needless to say, the outcome of the current crisis will be critical for the future of Israel, for that of the Palestinians and for the stability of the entire region.

### Visions for Peace Part 2 of a Series

The State of Israel's policy must rest on three fundamental and complementary elements: the fight against terrorism, a security separation and a political horizon.

The first element is continuing to wage an unrelenting war of self-defense against terror. As a result of the political horizon, we hope the Palestinians will develop the will to put a stop to terrorism, accompanied by the ability to do so.

The second element is security separation. Unlike unilateral political separation, the Ben-Eliezer plan advocates a security separation designed to make it as difficult as possible for terrorists and means of destruction to enter the State of Israel.

Ultimately, we will need a continuous, integrated system combining a physical barrier with technological means, armed personnel, and command, control, and monitoring systems. This kind of separation is not meant to demarcate a border line, but rather to leave all political options open.

The third element is a political horizon to act both as compass and guide. We must instigate a genuine horizon that is both substantial and credible — for ourselves, for the Palestinians as a whole and also for the regional and the international community.

This horizon is grounded first and foremost in a vision of two states for two peoples, living side by side in peaceful coexistence.

The Arab minority will be integrated in Israel with equal civil rights. Not controlling another people will strengthen Israel as a Zionist state with a solid Jewish majority.

The basis for a settlement will be provided by U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242, 338 and 1397, and it will generally follow President Clinton's parameters.

The political horizon referred to should also include the initiative of Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah, with the all-Arab endorsement that it recently received at the Arab summit in Beirut.

Although this should not be adopted exactly as drafted, the initiative points the way to a comprehensive Arab settlement with Israel, based on the idea of land for peace and an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Palestinian state will include the bulk of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It will enjoy territorial contiguity in the West Bank, and there will be special passage arrangements between the

West Bank and Gaza Strip. As part of the agreement, Israel will evacuate the settlements in the Gaza Strip and isolated settlements in the West Bank.

Most settlers will be concentrated in blocs adjacent to Israel, which will become part of Israel, in the framework of the agreement. Israel will be willing to swap land with the Palestinian state, areas whose size and location will be agreed upon in the negotiations.

Concerning Jerusalem, the agreement will establish a reality in which an expanded western Jerusalem, including Jewish neighborhoods in the eastern part of the city, will be recognized as Israel's capital for the first time. From the territorial-demographic point of view, Israeli interests require separation from the Arab neighborhoods in the east of the city.

With regard to the Old City and the holy sites, a "special regime" should be applied. In this, each side's special ties will be acknowledged, there will be no attribution of any final sovereignty on the Temple Mount, and there will be an agreed solution involving Islamic states and Security Council members.

A solution must be found to the refugee problem that involves symbolic, demographic and security aspects. It must not be based on what is called the "right of return" to Israel and its application in the form of tens or even hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees entering Israel. In practice, the solution will largely be achieved by rehabilitating the refugees and settling them in Palestine and the places they now live, with aid from an international fund in which Israel will participate.

In addition, Jewish refugees from the Arab countries should also be taken into account as part of an overall settlement.

The agreement must be based on strong security arrangements. Consequently, in addition to our military might, we will need security arrangements that will provide stability to the agreement.

The basic conditions are the supervised demilitarization of the Palestinian state so that it will have no army and none of the capacity and infrastructure of an army, Israeli control of airspace and arrangements guaranteeing a response to emergency situations.

International supervision can be used for the application of at least some of the security measures, as well as international observer forces. In the framework of an agreed arrangement, it will be desirable to rally the support of the international community. That means diplomatic support, including the formalization of the agreement achieved in a new Security Council resolution replacing all earlier relevant resolutions; backup on the ground; and significant economic support.

In practical terms, if we cannot implement this vision in one stroke, it can at least help both sides to progress toward it in a graduated manner. That would make it possible to include at various stages such components as establishing a Palestinian state on part of the land and evacuating certain settlements, in return for certain Palestinian measures.

Israel will have to make sure that during the interim period the settlements are frozen, in other words with no construction of new settlements and no development beyond natural growth within their existing boundaries.

We will keep the door of negotiations open until there is somebody who will walk through it with us. In so doing, we will make it clear that implementing the political horizon is conditional on a return to the paramount principle of settling conflicts by negotiations, not by violence. □

*Benjamin Ben-Eliezer is Israel's defense minister and the head of the Labor Party.*