



# Daily News Bulletin

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85th Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Arab killed in Jerusalem shooting

An Arab passer-by was killed Tuesday when a Palestinian gunman opened fire outside Jerusalem's Old City. According to police, the gunman began shooting when a policeman tried to stop him near the Nablus Gate. The Palestinian then drew a gun and shot the policeman, who was wounded and taken to a nearby hospital. Other police shot at the Palestinian, who returned their fire, killing the passer-by before fleeing. Police later arrested a suspect in the shooting.

Earlier Tuesday, Israeli soldiers shot a Palestinian gunman who was trying to sneak over the border from the West Bank into Israel.

### Israel, P.A. renew contacts

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres met with the Palestinian Authority's newly appointed finance minister. Monday night's meeting between Peres and Salam Fayed was the highest-level session between the two sides in months. During the meeting, Fayed called on Israel to turn over Palestinian tax revenues it has frozen.

On Tuesday, Peres met with the new Palestinian interior minister, Abdel Razak Yehiyeh. The two discussed how Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat plans to implement reforms in the Palestinian security services.

### Al-Qaida official vows attacks

An Al-Qaida spokesman vowed the terror network would soon attack U.S. and Jewish targets.

"Our suicide militants are ready and impatient to carry out attacks against U.S. and Jewish targets" in the United States and abroad, Sulaiman Ghaith said in an interview published Tuesday in the Algerian Arabic newspaper El Youm.

### Israel seeking home security role

Israeli officials want to play a role in the new Homeland Security Department being created by the Bush administration. Uzi Landau, Israel's minister of public security, met U.S. congressional leaders late last month to discuss the possibility of U.S.-Israeli cooperation within the department.

Israeli officials say Israel can help with the development of homeland defense strategies, share information on terror suspects and help with training on counterterrorism.

## New immigrants see aliyah as 'best way' to fight terrorism

By Rachel Pomerance

NEW YORK (JTA) — Howard and Dora Green were inside Jerusalem's packed Sbarro pizzeria last August when a suicide bomber blew himself and more than a dozen others to bits.

The Greens suffered personally from the terrorist attack — their niece still rests in a coma in Tel Aviv — but it prompted the couple to emerge stronger and more dedicated to preserving the Jewish people.

The "best way to fight back" said Howard Green, is to make aliyah.

Nearly one year later, the Orthodox couple from New York has moved to the Jewish state.

They were among nearly 400 North American Jews — 150 under the age of 12 — who made aliyah in what is believed to be the largest group of North Americans to immigrate at one time to Israel.

Israel was "always a dream we could never fulfill" for financial or other reasons, Dora Green, 51, said as she prepared for her departure from JFK International Airport on Monday.

But now, with her husband's retirement benefits and a financial boost from a new organization dedicated to easing the financial burden of aliyah, the Greens are officially new immigrants.

In fact, the group that helped the Greens, Nefesh B'Nefesh, which means from soul to soul in Hebrew, was founded by someone dedicated to replacing lives lost to terror with new Jewish immigrants.

After his cousin was killed in a 2000 terrorist attack in Israel, Rabbi Joshua Fass of Boca Raton, Fla., wanted to "come stand in his stead."

Describing his inspiration to others, the 29-year-old Orthodox rabbi found a burgeoning group of like-minded prospective immigrants whose only impediment was finances.

In November, he resigned from his congregation and joined local businessman and congregant Tony Gelbart to launch the group.

They placed ads in Jewish papers across the country and urged the North American offices of the Israel Aliyah Center to direct prospective immigrants their way.

Nefesh B'Nefesh raised \$3 million to send and integrate its first planeload of new immigrants, which arrived at Israel's Ben-Gurion Airport to great fanfare on Tuesday morning.

Of the total, \$2 million came as a grant from the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, which raises money primarily from Christian donors.

Nefesh B'Nefesh offered the new immigrants from \$5,000 to \$25,000 in grants, averaging \$20,000, to ease their move to Israel.

The group includes Jews from 23 states and Canada.

Three-fourths of the group are Orthodox, according to Fass, who went with his wife, Batsheva, and three small children.

But others among them said a secular Zionism propelled their move.

Mike Lewin was leaving his best friend and family behind in Cleveland to begin a new life in Israel.

"I've always been a strong Zionist," said Lewin, 28.

It's a feeling that's grown, he said as he was leaving on Monday, since his first visit there as a 16-year-old on a federation-sponsored teen tour.

"Not every Jew needs" to make aliyah, but those who are "ready to make a

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Israel has new army chief

Moshe Ya'alon was sworn in Tuesday as the Israel Defense Force's 17th chief of staff.

During a ceremony Tuesday at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem, Ya'alon rose to the rank of lieutenant general, succeeding the outgoing chief of staff, Shaul Mofaz, who is retiring after 36 years in the army.

Ya'alon, 52, was previously the army's deputy chief of staff.

### Islamic Jihad member killed

A senior Islamic Jihad member was killed Tuesday near Jenin.

According to Palestinian sources, Muamar Drameh's vehicle was ambushed near the West Bank village of Yamoun.

The army said it was not aware of the incident and was looking into it, Army Radio reported.

### Outposts to be dismantled

Nine illegal settlement outposts in the West Bank will be dismantled this week, Defense Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer said.

Ben-Eliezer's vow Monday came after 10 other outposts were dismantled last week, according to the Israeli daily Ha'aretz.

### Israel closes Nusseibeh's offices

Israeli police closed the offices of Al-Quds University and its rector, Sari Nusseibeh, in eastern Jerusalem on Tuesday.

Public Security Minister Uzi Landau said the offices were being used as a front for conducting Palestinian Authority activity in the capital, a violation of previously signed accords, according to an Israel Radio report.

Nusseibeh is the Palestinian Authority's senior representative in Jerusalem.



## Daily News Bulletin

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commitment should go," said Lewin, who describes himself as a Reform Jew in America and a secular one in Israel.

Stuart Schwartz, 50, a Florida businessman and Reform Jew also described a growing love for Israel with each visit there.

"I feel a bond to Israel," Schwartz said. It's a "return to the homeland."

He said financial assistance from Nefesh B'Nefesh was the key that allowed him to actually move, he said.

One of the main reason American Jews, especially Orthodox Jews, don't make aliyah is because they can't afford the expense of relocating, believes 63-year-old Stan Rabinowitz, a ba'al teshuvah, or someone who has newly embraced Orthodox Judaism.

Indeed, Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein, founder and president of the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, says that if Nefesh B'Nefesh proves that to be the case by continuing to raise the numbers of American aliyah, then American Jewry must address the issue.

Eckstein, who himself recently made aliyah, said, "This aliyah happened because Christian Americans helped make it happen."

Their support comes because they want to "help bless Israel and the Jewish people" at a time of need and to strengthen ties between Christians and Jews in America.

North American aliyah has steadily decreased by 15 percent every year for the last five years, with slightly fewer than 1,200 North Americans making aliyah last year.

But this year, Dan Biron, executive director of the Israel Aliyah Center, which handles immigration to Israel by North American Jews, expects an increase of 20 percent due to the work of Nefesh B'Nefesh. For its part, Nefesh B'Nefesh plans to continue operating out of Florida and Israel with 130 immigrants more scheduled to depart later this summer, and another 1,200 next year.

Unlike immigrants from other countries who come to Israel fleeing danger or persecution, the beauty of this group is that they are choosing Israel purely for ideology, said Biron.

Rabinowitz admitted that leaving wasn't easy.

"Boca Raton, Fla., is like being in paradise," he said, describing the kosher restaurants and idyllic ocean near his home.

But Israel is "our true home," said Rabinowitz, who was making aliyah with his wife, a convert to Judaism.

Meanwhile, before boarding the plane to Israel on Monday, Fass moved swiftly through the eager and anxious crowd, handing out tickets and searching for his own, shaking hands with the new immigrants and handing his cards to others seeking future passage to the Jewish state.

Looking like the mayor of aliyah, Fass said his plane of new immigrants is an "infusion of life, light and hope."

This should be the "biggest morale boost to Israelis. To have 100 families move at time like this" is "an act of heroism," he said.

For their part, the Greens believe that bringing their bodies and support to Israel at such a difficult time helps bring courage to Jews in Israel and, therefore, survival to Jews everywhere.

Israel, a country that has absorbed so many into such a small country, is an "amazing story," said Dora Green, the daughter of Holocaust survivors whose mother and children are also making aliyah. "I want to be a part of that." □

## Report focuses on Internet hate

NEW YORK (JTA) — Extremist activity on the Internet has increased since the Sept. 11 terror attacks, according to the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

"Extremist groups are undoubtedly spending more of their efforts online," Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the center, said Monday as the center released its annual report on the spread of racism on the Internet, "Digital Hate 2002."

Researchers who examined some 25,000 Web sites per month identified 3,300 as "problematic," up from 2,600 a year ago, according to the report.

Cooper said the center was particularly disturbed by a game called "Kaboom!" in which the computer user plays a suicide bomber in search of ways to cause maximum bloodshed. □

## JEWISH WORLD

### Scholars fired for being Israeli

A British academic fired two scholars from two journals she owns because they are Israeli. Mona Baker, a professor at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, said this week she dismissed Miriam Shlesinger and Gideon Toury because of their nationality. She took the step after signing an Internet petition last month calling for academics to boycott Israel.

Academics around the world condemned the firings. Professor Stephen Greenblatt, a Shakespeare scholar at Harvard University, described Baker's actions as "repellent," "dangerous" and "intellectually and morally bankrupt."

### ADL blasts candidate's attack

The Anti-Defamation League criticized a Democratic candidate who said his opponent should not represent a redrawn Detroit-area congressional district because he is liberal and Jewish. Michigan state Rep. William Callahan said redistricting has made the district more conservative and mostly Roman Catholic.

In an interview, he then went on to attack the incumbent, Rep. Sander Levin: "I mean, that man has never owned a Christmas tree. He's not a Christian. And I'm thinking, 'Jeez, how can he represent me then?'" Callahan said in an interview.

Howard Wallach, vice chairman of the Michigan chapter of the ADL, called Callahan's remarks "truly unfortunate and the worst kind of politics." Callahan later told the Detroit Free Press that he had indeed made the comments, but they were quoted "grossly out of context."

### Interfaith service leads to firing

A Lutheran minister was suspended for participating in a post-Sept. 11 interfaith prayer service in New York. "To participate with pagans in an interfaith service" that included Jews, Muslims, Sikhs and Hindus "is an extremely serious offense against the God of the Bible," the Rev. Wallace Schulz, an official with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, wrote in the letter suspending the Rev. David Benke.

Supporters of Benke, who was also told to apologize, said he would appeal the suspension by the church, the 10th largest in the United States.

### Brazilian Jewish leader dies

Samuel Benchimol, a leader of Sephardic Jews from Brazil's Amazon region, died last Friday. A historian, Benchimol was president of the General Assembly of the Amazon Jewish Committee and an emeritus professor at the Amazonas State Federal University. "We Jews from northern Brazil feel like orphans," said Isaac Dahan, director of the Brazilian Jewish Historic Archives.

## Israel seeks pivotal role in U.S. security initiative

By Matthew E. Berger

WASHINGTON (JTA) — With U.S. lawmakers now focused on the creation of a Department of Homeland Security, Israel is hoping to play a pivotal role.

Uzi Landau, Israel's minister of public security, met congressional leaders late last month to discuss the possibilities of U.S.-Israeli cooperation within the emerging Department.

Specifically, Landau is seeking a point person within the department to work with other countries, especially Israel.

"Israel has become a laboratory for suicide bombings and terrorism," said a consultant to the minister, who sat in on the U.S. meetings. "We are learning how to deal with terrorism."

Israeli officials say that Israel can provide cooperation on research and developing homeland defense strategies.

Israel can also share information on terrorist suspects, exchange information on how to combat individual threats, and engage in joint training with the United States on counterterrorism procedures.

Many of these initiatives are already proceeding informally.

The United States has looked to Israel frequently since the Sept. 11 attacks for counterterrorism advice, specifically on airline security.

But Landau wants the cooperation to be formalized within the emerging new department.

For Israel, involvement in this new endeavor is seen as a way of paying back the United States.

Israel receives nearly \$3 billion each year from the United States in economic and military assistance, and Israeli officials believe they can return the favor by providing advice and aid in the one area where they are universally accepted as the world leader — homeland security.

"Here's Israel, with this tremendous amount of experience and knowledge," the consultant said. "It's a tremendous opportunity for Israel to provide something to the United States."

Landau, who visits Washington frequently, met with several lawmakers, including Sen. John Kyl (R-Ariz.) and Rep. Saxby Chambliss (R-Ga.), chair of the subcommittee on terrorism and homeland security.

Chambliss expressed the need for more cooperation between the two countries, a spokesman said.

Landau also met with Rep. Jane Harman (D-Calif.), the ranking Democrat on the subcommittee on terrorism and homeland security. A spokesman for Harman said the lawmaker is reviewing the initiative.

Israeli officials said they were received positively on Capitol Hill.

The Department of Homeland Security was proposed by President Bush last month to bring together government agencies that deal with domestic terrorism, such as the Coast Guard, Border Patrol, Customs Service and some offices within the FBI and CIA.

The initial plans for the agency do not include any office to coordinate international support.

Currently, homeland security is coordinated through the White House and its Office of Homeland Security. Landau and other Israeli officials have met with Tom Ridge, who leads that effort and is considered a favorite to run the new department, once it is created.

Some have questioned whether it is premature for Israel to be seeking a role within the department before it is even created.

But Israeli officials counter that current threats of terrorism in the United States — such as the massive alert during July 4 celebrations — highlight the need for immediate cooperation, even if it is not formalized until later.

And Arab American leaders are said to be concerned about increased interdependence between Israel and the United States, and what effects it could have on U.S. policy in the Middle East. □

## Sex-abuse conviction of rabbi closes tough chapter for Orthodox

By Joe Berkofsky

NEW YORK (JTA) — The recent sex-abuse conviction of Rabbi Baruch Lanner for groping two teen-age girls closed a highly disturbing chapter for the centrist Orthodox world.

But it remains to be seen how deeply the controversy will transform the community.

Lanner was found guilty June 27 in a Monmouth County, N.J., Superior Court of endangering the welfare of two girls between 1992 and 1996, while he was principal of a New Jersey yeshiva.

He also was their supervisor at the National Conference of Synagogue Youth, the youth wing of the Orthodox Union.

Lanner, 52, who has maintained his innocence and whose lawyers said will likely appeal, was also convicted of aggravated criminal sexual contact and sexual contact against one of the girls. Freed on \$100,000 bail, he is set to be sentenced Sept. 13. He faces between 10 and 20 years in jail and a maximum \$300,000 fine.

The Lanner case not only stirred a rare public airing of the issue in the Jewish community, it also provoked intense debate in the community because Lanner allegedly abused scores of teenagers over 30 years.

The scandal surfaced in June 2000 when the New York Jewish Week first reported the complaints against Lanner.

As public reaction swelled, the O.U. appointed the NCSY Special Commission on the Lanner case, and in December 2000 the panel released part of a scathing 332-page report blaming O.U. leaders for ignoring reports of Lanner's abuse and urging major organizational reforms.

In at least four instances, NCSY and O.U. officials were "put on direct and specific notice of serious sexual misconduct" by Lanner but failed to heed such "red flags," the report said.

Lanner, who worked for the Etz Chaim, N.J., branch of the NCSY and was principal at the Hillel Yeshiva High School in Ocean Township, N.J., left the yeshiva in 1997 and resigned from his NCSY position the day the Jewish Week story appeared.

Shockwaves reverberated through the O.U. after the charges became public and the group's executive vice president, Raphael Butler, eventually resigned.

Some say that under Butler's successor, Rabbi Tzvi Hersh Weinreb, the O.U. has worked hard to repair its reputation by instituting measures ensuring that complaints get aired and addressed. Richard Joel, president and international director of Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life, who chaired the Lanner commission, said the O.U. has begun to act.

"The best thing to be said is that changes are still a work in progress," Joel says. "Weinreb really understands the dimensions of the challenge and has really begun the process of making the changes necessary at NCSY."

According to the O.U.'s new president, Harvey Blitz, the NCSY has instituted mandatory sensitivity training for all teen advisers, has created "ombudsmen" to hear complaints and has put in place formal procedures regarding sexual misconduct.

"I think there's been a significant change in attitude," Blitz said. "I think we're making substantial progress in changing the overall culture, but it takes time."

That remains one of the bigger questions the NCSY and O.U. face: Can an organization with members in 1,000 congregations

nationwide transform deeply ingrained cultural biases against publicizing such behavior?

Gary Rosenblatt, the editor and publisher of the New York Jewish Week, who broke the story and has covered the case extensively, said such changes don't come easily.

"Certainly, the whole Jewish community is aware of the Lanner case and there have been some positive results because of that," Rosenblatt said. "It was Rabbi Weinreb who said that when something like this happens, don't go to your rabbi, go to the authorities. That's a simple but important message."

Yet if another sex-abuse scandal were to surface, Rosenblatt said, "I'm not sure how the community would deal differently with it. I still think there's a natural resistance to going public."

One vocal critic of the NCSY's response in the Lanner matter, however, voiced optimism that Lanner's conviction will make it easier for victims in other cases to go public.

"I would hope that the Lanner conviction demonstrates to victims that, even though their persecutors are respected members of the community, they can still get their stories to be believed," said Murray Sragow, a member of an NCSY parental advisory committee. Sragow is confident that structural changes in NCSY should prevent potential problems from being ignored.

He said that during the past two years several complaints of "inappropriate" behavior against NCSY teen advisers have surfaced, though none with the seriousness of the Lanner charges.

One case involved an NCSY adviser asking a teen-ager on a date, he said. Blitz of the O.U. acknowledged there have been "some" new complaints of inappropriate behavior, but he would not comment on the specific instance Sragow mentioned.

Such complaints should surface in an environment that has grown highly "sensitized" to abuses, Blitz added.

The NCSY has gone to such lengths to avoid potential improprieties that advisers are banned from speaking with children in an area not visible to other people, he said.

However, Sragow added that the Lanner case convinced him that parents should investigate any organization before entrusting their children to its care. "The fact that someone is a priest or a rabbi means nothing," he said.

One of Lanner's alleged victims, Elie Hiller, who maintains that Lanner physically abused him 13 years ago, said he is encouraged by the convictions, limited as they were because only two women had agreed to take their case to court.

"Hopefully, others will be encouraged and emboldened to come forward," he said.

Like others, Hiller is waiting to see what changes will take place in the community. "Realistically, it doesn't happen overnight," he said. "We're talking about overturning a culture, and that will take a lot more than one or two people to change." □

## Hong Kong coffee chain apologizes

NEW YORK (JTA) — A coffee shop chain in Hong Kong apologized for have its shops display a "thought for the day" by Hitler.

Some customers complained after the quote — "The victor will never be asked if he told the truth" — appeared on blackboards in some Pacific Coffee shops.

"I wish to apologize unreservedly" for the "extremely unfortunate quote," the chain's managing director said in an ad that appeared Tuesday in the South China Morning Post. □