



Daily News Bulletin

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85th Year

TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

7 killed in Arab ambush

At least seven Israelis were killed and 15 wounded in a Palestinian ambush Tuesday near the West Bank settlement of Immanuel. [Page 3]

U.S. alone on Arafat

The United States and its diplomatic partners are still at odds over Yasser Arafat.

During meetings in New York with the European Union, the United Nations and Russia, the United States appeared to stand alone in calling for Arafat's ouster.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan told reporters after the first round of meetings on Tuesday, "As for Arafat, we all have our respective positions. The U.N. still recognizes Chairman Arafat and we will continue to deal with him until the Palestinians decide otherwise."

Poland blasted on restitution

Poland has not done enough to return Jewish property seized by the Nazis, U.S. lawmakers said.

At a hearing Tuesday on Capitol Hill, lawmakers agreed with the assessment of Jewish officials who testified at the session, charging that Polish officials have made little effort at restitution.

"We have a strong sense that Poland has let all of us down," said Rep. Christopher Smith, (R-N.J.), who has been closely involved in monitoring restitution efforts. President Bush is expected to raise the issue when he meets with Poland's president Wednesday.

Jordan's Abdullah to go to D.C.

Jordan's King Abdullah is slated to visit the White House on Aug. 1. White House spokesman Ari Fleischer made the announcement Tuesday as Jordanian officials, along with their Egyptian and Saudi counterparts, were in New York to meet with U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell.

Toronto murder suspect arrested

Toronto police arrested the prime suspect in the murder of a Chasidic man.

Police arrested Christopher Steven McBride late Monday night following a raid on an apartment in the city's West End. Police soon began to interrogate the prisoner, who is a slight 20-year-old with a shaved head and tattoos. [Page 4]

NEWS ANALYSIS

Firing of Israeli academics fuels debate over use of political boycotts

By Joe Berkofsky

NEW YORK (JTA) — For Bar-Ilan University senior lecturer Miriam Shlesinger, the entire "sad" affair began in April when a longtime colleague e-mailed her a plea to join a boycott of Israeli academics.

The surprising e-mail to Shlesinger, a professor of translation studies, came from her old friend, Mona Baker, at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology in England.

The e-mail alerted her about an April embargo of cultural and scientific links with Israel that a few British academics had launched to pressure Israel to withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza Strip following its incursions there.

But Shlesinger told Baker she couldn't back the boycott "because academic life should be separate from politics," Shlesinger told JTA this week.

The exchange led to an even more surprising event that touched off an international furor in academic circles over questions of blacklisting, intellectual freedom and anti-Israel motivations. It also has become a lightning rod for an increasingly strident debate about the use of boycotts to protest Israel policies.

In June, Baker asked Shlesinger and Gideon Toury, a professor of translation studies at Tel Aviv University, to resign from the boards of two translation studies journals Baker publishes and edits.

The Cairo-born Baker, also a professor of translation studies, said she was acting in the spirit of the anti-Israel boycott.

Since her colleagues represented Israeli institutions, she could no longer work with them, Shlesinger said she was told.

When Shlesinger and Toury refused to step down, Baker fired them.

"It's sad because it's so counterproductive and futile," said Shlesinger, the daughter of Holocaust survivors whose son-in-law was killed in an ambush by Hamas gunmen.

"If I were to lie down in front of tanks in Jenin, I would still be an Israeli. I am being dismissed because I am Israeli — not for anything I've done or said," said Shlesinger, who chaired the Israeli chapter of the human rights group Amnesty International from 1990 to 1993 and has been a Peace Now activist almost since its founding in the early 1980s.

The firings set off intense criticism, especially in the United States, where academics have largely lined up in support of Shlesinger and Toury and have questioned a series of attempts in Europe to isolate Israel and Israeli academics through boycotts. Last week, the Association of Jewish Studies, based at Brandeis University in Waltham, Mass., denounced the removal of the Israelis and urged Baker to reinstate them.

"Political issues should not intrude on academic concerns and the intellectual pursuit of truth," said Aaron Katchen, executive director of a group of Jewish studies professionals.

Katchen called Baker's decision "egregious" and "unacceptable" and said she should be reprimanded if the Manchester Institute finds she violated any school policies.

Institute officials would not comment on the controversy, though they posted a statement on the school's Web site (www.umist.ac.uk), saying that "the Israeli academics should not have been removed" and that they were conducting "an internal inquiry" into the matter.

Since e-mailing its protest last week, Katchen said his group has received "several

MIDEAST FOCUS

Panel OKs yeshiva deferral bill

A Knesset committee OK'd requiring yeshiva students to serve two weeks a year in the Civil Guard. Fervently Orthodox legislators oppose the provision and demanded that the committee hold another vote next week before the final version of the bill is sent to the Knesset for second and third votes.

The clause was added to a bill regulating draft exemptions for yeshiva students. Fervently Orthodox parties had threatened to bolt the government if the bill is approved with the provision, on the grounds that it contradicts the principle that yeshiva students who declare Torah studies their "work" should not have any other obligations. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has promised the parties that the provision would not be passed.

Peres blasts anti-Nusseibeh move

Israel's recent closing of the offices of the top Palestinian official in Jerusalem was a mistake, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said.

Peres told Army Radio that the move against Sari Nusseibeh, which was criticized by the United States, had hurt Israel's image.

U.S. warns Israel on Lebanon

The United States called on Israel to halt air patrols over Lebanon.

U.S. officials called the flights "provocative" and expressed concern that an Israeli plane might be downed by Hezbollah anti-aircraft fire, Army Radio reported.

Israeli inflation continues rise

Israel's cost-of-living index rose 1.3 percent in June, taking economists by surprise.

The annualized inflation rate now stands at 9 percent, far exceeding the government's target rate of 2 percent to 3 percent.



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dozen" responses from its 2,000 members against the firings.

The controversy has sparked protest from other quarters as well.

Stephen Greenblatt, a Harvard professor and leading scholar on Shakespeare who is president of the Modern Language Association, wrote letters to The New York Times and London Telegraph, among others, blasting Baker's move.

Noting that Baker's two journals to which the Israelis contributed dealt with cross-cultural communication, Greenblatt said in a telephone interview this week: "It's rather difficult to have intercultural communication if you exclude a whole country on the basis of nationality."

And if Baker's intent is to hasten Mideast peace, he said, her actions will accomplish the opposite. Hopes for peace lie "in the fostering of relationships, even between people who haven't spoken to one another."

Several commentators have also said boycotts are not likely to help the peace process because they isolate the very people — liberal intellectuals and academics — who support peace initiatives.

Shlesinger herself reiterated that academics' politics have no connection to their work.

"Even if Professor Tourey and I were right-wing or we were settlers, we still shouldn't be fired from an academic journal," she said.

Just what motivated Shlesinger's colleague and longtime friend remains unclear.

Baker could not be reached for comment, but several British media reports said she had become increasingly sympathetic to the Palestinian cause and was upset over Israel's Operation Protective Wall, which was launched in response to a wave of deadly suicide attacks.

It was in early April, shortly after Israel's operation began, that professors Steven and Hilary Rose of England's Open University launched the campaign to boycott Israeli academics.

Their campaign, which also calls for an embargo on European funding of Israeli scientific and cultural institutions, has attracted more than 700 backers from 20 countries, including 10 Israelis, according to a list on their Web site (www.pjpo.org).

Advocates of a boycott say such actions can make a difference, with some citing the boycotts against the former apartheid regime of South Africa.

Hilary Rose has been quoted in newspaper reports as saying a boycott of South African athletes partially contributed to the end of that regime.

Her actions against Israelis, she was quoted saying in London's Daily Telegraph, came because "we had become so exhausted by the horror of what is going on in Israel and occupied territories, it is a means of civil society expressing its disquiet."

The academic boycott site also links to several tougher anti-Israel boycott measures, including one urging people to stop buying Israeli products and one calling on artists to cancel ties to Israeli arts events because of Israeli "war crimes."

Reactions to the academic ban have ranged from outright support in England, where the British Association of University Teachers and the lecturers union have lauded the move, to opposition by a German scientific society, the Berlin-Brandenburg Scientific Academy.

In response to the boycott efforts, three Hebrew University professors initiated a countermeasure, which is spreading across the Internet (www.aaisc.net) and has gained at least 13,000 signatures. Those behind the countermeasure, Eva Illouz, Aaron Ben Avot and Hillel Shuval, echo their American counterparts in saying that boycotts run counter to principles of academic freedom.

Among those signing on to the protest against the anti-Israel boycott was Pierre Atlas, an assistant professor of political science at Marian College in Indianapolis.

Atlas called the firing of the Israelis academics "repugnant."

"The idea of singling somebody out just for their nationality violates the most basic precepts of academic freedom and academic discourse itself," he said.

He noted that the Oslo peace process grew out of behind-the-scenes, informal contacts between Israeli and Palestinian intellectuals.

Unlike some other U.S. academics, Atlas said he felt it is clear what motivates those attempting to sever cultural and academic dealings with Israel.

"If people want to boycott Israel, it's not because they're opposed to Israeli policies," he said, "but because they don't like Israel." □

JEWISH WORLD

German police suspect imam

German police are reportedly investigating the activities of an Islamic cleric in Hamburg who preached hatred of Jews, Christians and the United States to some of the Sept. 11 terrorists.

Police officials said the imam, whom they know only as Al-Fazazi, gave the hate-filled sermons at a local mosque, The New York Times reported on Tuesday.

"Christians and Jews should have their throats slit," the cleric said, according to a videotape of a sermon he gave. He left Hamburg some time before Sept. 11, possibly for Morocco, police said.

Pearl family 'grateful' for justice

The family of slain Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl said they "were grateful for the tireless efforts by authorities in Pakistan and the United States" to seek justice for Pearl's murderers.

On Monday, after a Pakistani court convicted four Islamic terrorists Monday in the kidnap-slaying, Pearl's family issued a statement saying, "Today's verdict is the first chapter in this process. We hope and trust that the search for the remaining abductors and murderers will continue, so that all accomplices in this unthinkable crime will be brought to justice."

In Monday's verdict, the British-born kidnap mastermind, Sheikh Omar, was sentenced to death.

His three accomplices were given life sentences.

They were also ordered to pay fines, totaling \$62,200, with the money expected to go to Pearl's widow, Mariane, and their infant son, Adam.

Explosion near Helsinki shul

A car exploded near a synagogue in Helsinki early Tuesday, killing the driver and wounding a passer-by.

The head of Helsinki's Jewish community, Gideon Bolotowsky, told Israel Radio that the motive was not immediately clear.

The report said the blast occurred around 6:50 a.m. in front of a hotel located about 200 yards from the synagogue.

Belgian banks offer restitution

Belgian banks agreed to pay about \$54 million to the country's Jewish community for property lost during the Nazi occupation.

Tuesday's agreement was reached after long negotiations between the Belgian Bank Association and Jewish representatives.

It comes after Belgium's government and the nation's insurance companies agreed in June to pay about \$55 million in restitution to the Jewish community for property stolen or abandoned between 1940 and 1945.

Arab terror punctuates debate on Israeli presence in West Bank

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The latest act of Palestinian terrorism comes amid a debate in Israel regarding the continued military presence in the West Bank.

Tuesday's attack, which killed at least seven Israelis near the entrance to the West Bank settlement of Immanuel, followed a nearly monthlong lull in terror attacks on Israeli civilians.

Israeli security officials attributed the lull in part to the tight military clampdown on Palestinian cities. The army launched its massive anti-terror operation in the West Bank after 31 Israelis were killed in three successive attacks in mid-June.

The attack came hours before officials from the so-called Quartet — the United States, Russia, European Union and United Nations — met in New York in an effort to devise a strategy that would help Israel and the Palestinians overcome their seemingly intractable differences.

While advocates of the army's anti-terror operation in the West Bank say it has prevented attacks and led to the arrests of suspected terrorists, some officials in the security establishment have warned that the measures being taken, including prolonged curfews, are creating a pressure-cooker situation among Palestinian civilians that could blow up in Israel's face.

With this in mind, the Israeli government last week renewed contacts with Palestinian Authority officials with the aim of finding ways to ease sanctions on the Palestinian civilian population.

The army, meanwhile, has taken steps to ease curfews and reportedly made preparations to reduce its presence in areas that are quiet.

Amid the debate over the army's actions, the newly appointed Israel Defense Force chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Moshe Ya'alon, warned Tuesday that pulling Israeli soldiers out of the West Bank now would be seen by the Palestinians as surrender.

"A withdrawal from the Palestinian Authority territories at this time will not ensure a halt to terror, but will be interpreted as a capitulation that will hurt Israel's deterrent capabilities on all fronts," Ya'alon was quoted as telling a Knesset committee.

Comparing the Israeli army's current policy to a blanket to smother fires, Ya'alon said, "Where there is quiet, the blanket will be removed, as is currently happening in Jericho and Hebron. In places where the shooting continues, we cannot remove it."

Following Tuesday's terror attack, Israel canceled talks planned for Wednesday with Palestinian officials.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres announced the cancellation after meeting with the Israeli panel coordinating Israel's position in the recently renewed talks with Palestinian officials. The Palestinian Authority issued a statement condemning attacks against all innocent civilians, Israeli and Palestinian alike.

At the same time, however Palestinian Authority official Nabil Sha'ath was quoted as telling Abu Dhabi Television that Israel bears responsibility for the attack as long as it continues to control Palestinian cities in the West Bank.

For their part, Israeli officials blamed Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat for the attack.

Political sources in Jerusalem were quoted as saying that as long as Arafat remains at the head of the Palestinian Authority and meaningful reforms are not implemented, the attacks will continue.

In Tuesday's attack — which was hauntingly similar to one carried out last December — Palestinian terrorists set off a bomb as a bus neared the entrance to Immanuel. In December, 10 Israelis were killed and 23 wounded.

In Tuesday's attack, three terrorists, who were dressed in Israeli army uniforms, opened fire as people fled the bus, witnesses said.

Along with the fatalities, at least 15 were wounded, seven of them seriously.

Eager to gather plaudits from their supporters, four Palestinian groups claimed responsibility — the military wing of Arafat's Fatah movement, Hamas, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. □

Canadian police and Jews differ over murder of Orthodox man

By Bill Gladstone

TORONTO (JTA) — Canadian police say there is no concrete evidence that this week's murder of a Chasidic man wearing a skullcap was a hate crime.

But members of the Canadian Jewish community disagree over the characterization of Sunday's stabbing of David Rosenzweig, 49, outside a kosher pizzeria.

After making the arrest of Christopher Steven McBride and another suspect on Monday night, police officials said more investigation was needed before the death of the father of six could be classified as a hate crime.

"We have to wait and see," Toronto Police Chief Julian Fantino said. "We had no further information that would classify it formally as a hate-motivated crime, but we don't exclude the possibility."

McBride is a slight 20-year-old with a shaved head and tattoos.

"I don't categorize him as a skinhead," Police Staff-Inspector Bob Clarke said. "I categorize him as an individual who has his head shaved."

But some of the 200 people who gathered at a vigil Monday night near the spot where Rosenzweig fell said the attack was just the latest in a wave of international anti-Semitism during the past year.

"I'm shocked by it, but I'm not surprised it happened," said Fern Waterman, a physician-psychologist.

Referring to a U.N. anti-racism conference in South Africa that featured widespread anti-Semitism, she added, "I think it's entirely in keeping with the spirit of that witch hunt that occurred last year in Durban under the guise of free speech. I think Durban gave license to these skinheads to do deeds like this and let them think they're doing the world a favor."

Canadian Jewish leaders agree that the murder was likely a hate crime.

"Here we have individuals who were apparently skinheads, which seems to be a clear statement of their ideology," said Frank Dimant, a friend of the family and the executive vice president of B'nai Brith Canada.

The killers "come into a Jewish restaurant in a Jewish neighborhood to cause trouble, and they kill a Jew. I don't think they necessarily have to scream, 'I hate Jews.' Their demeanor says it all."

Earlier in the day, an estimated 2,000 people, including Toronto's mayor and the premier of the province of Ontario, attended Rosenzweig's funeral.

Despite the official show of support, the murder seems to have touched a nerve in this vibrant Jewish community of about 170,000, the largest in Canada — and violated the community's sense of security.

"I hate to say it but I'm going to tell my grandchildren not to walk to shul wearing" yarmulkes, said Edmund Lipsitz, an educator and former official with the Canadian Jewish Congress, who lives two blocks from the murder site. "I thought that after going through the Holocaust I would be able to live my life peacefully, but it looks like evil times are back again, even in a city like Toronto." □

Chicago sheriff reverses course, allows religious head coverings

By Pauline Dubkin Yearwood
Chicago Jewish News

CHICAGO (JTA) — It's not often that a matter involving issues of religious freedom has such a happy ending, or that the ending is written so swiftly.

But a brouhaha that arose this month in the Cook County Sheriff's Department was resolved in less than a week to most everyone's satisfaction.

Sgt. Larry Davidson, a Cook County deputy sheriff and an Orthodox Jew, is back on the job and is wearing his yarmulke.

And Crystal Clark, a Muslim who also works in the sheriff's office, is allowed to wear her hijab, or headscarf, at work. Both, however, must keep their religious headgear under a uniform hat or cap while on the job.

The quick resolution to the matter was largely due to a speedy response from both Jewish and Muslim groups who worked toward the same end, although not together.

The controversy began in early July when Clark, who converted to Islam in January, learned that the sheriff's office had refused her request to wear a headscarf at work.

According to the Chicago Tribune, she told officials that she knew of a Jewish officer who was allowed to wear his skullcap on the job.

After reviewing uniform regulations in connection with Clark's request, sheriff's department officials then told Davidson, a 21-year veteran of the office, on July 1 that he would be officially asked to remove his yarmulke the next day.

Davidson, 49, had been wearing the yarmulke to work for two years.

In defending the decision, a spokesman for the sheriff's office, Bill Cunningham, told the Tribune that allowing individuals to wear religious articles of clothing to work "will open Pandora's box. There will be a steady stream of employees asking for something," he said.

Cunningham also said Clark's hijab could pose a security threat: When she works in the courtroom, an inmate could grab it and use it to strangle her, he said.

Davidson was officially asked on July 2 to remove the yarmulke, but he refused.

The department confiscated his gun and star — since refusing an order is considered insubordination — and he was told to report to work without his uniform to perform clerical duties.

Davidson contacted State Sen. Ira Silverstein, also an Orthodox Jew and a longtime friend. Silverstein in turn alerted the local office of the Anti-Defamation League, which put its officials to work on behalf of both Davidson and Clark.

Richard Hirschhaut, director of the ADL's Midwest office, called the sheriff department's decision "arrogant and punitive."

In addition to the original edict, the de-deputizing of Davidson was "arbitrary," he said.

"Rather than the sheriff's office finding a way to accommodate the religious needs of two dedicated, local employees, they chose to simply issue an edict that no religious head coverings would be tolerated," he said.

In addition, Hirschhaut said, he disagreed with the sheriff's office that the edict was based on strong legal grounds. □