



# Daily News Bulletin

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85th Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Tel Aviv attack kills at least 3

Two explosions Wednesday in Tel Aviv killed at least three Israelis and wounded 30, many of them seriously.

Police say two Palestinian suicide bombers carried out the attack, which took place outside a movie theater near the old Central Bus Station in southern Tel Aviv.

The White House called the attack "despicable," but said it would not deter plans for President Bush to meet Thursday in the White House with the foreign ministers from Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

### W. Bank attack toll rises to eight

An infant delivered prematurely after his mother was wounded in a terrorist attack near the West Bank settlement of Immanuel died Wednesday.

The infant's death brought the total toll of that attack to eight. [Page 3]

### Israeli, Palestinian killed in clash

An Israeli soldier and a Palestinian gunman were killed in a clash near the West Bank settlement of Immanuel on Wednesday. Lt. Elad Grandir, 21, of Haifa, was killed and two other soldiers wounded in the gun battle.

The clash erupted as Israeli soldiers aided by military helicopters carried out an intensive manhunt for the terrorist cell that had carried out a deadly ambush a day earlier near the settlement.

Soldiers found cell members in a ravine early Wednesday, and the gunman was killed in a subsequent firefight.

### Bush blasts Arafat again

Yasser Arafat has failed the Palestinian people, President Bush reiterated.

"The Palestinian people will be better served with a new leader," the president said at a news conference Wednesday.

His statement came as officials from the European Union, Russia and the United Nations made it clear during a meeting a day earlier in New York that they want to continue working with Arafat.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES

### Jewish communities stage vigils to humanize the victims of terror

By Rachel Pomerance

NEW YORK (JTA) — Chino Reyes knelt before the photographs of Israelis killed in terror attacks, crossed himself and opened his broad, tattooed arms in prayer.

The 42-year-old New York construction worker said he heard about the vigil in Manhattan's Union Square for Israeli terror victims Wednesday and wanted to stop by to pay his respects.

The event spoke to Reyes, who lost a close family friend, as well as many in the greater Latino community, in the Sept. 11 attack on the World Trade Center.

In the Middle East crisis, he said, he is "strongly with Israel."

"They've been struggling for so many years. Look what" the country is "going through," he said.

Manhattan's vigil, sponsored by the American Zionist Movement and the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, was one of 20 being held across North America and Britain this week to coincide with Tisha B'Av, the Jewish day of mourning for the destruction of Israel's First and Second Temples.

Through its 25 member organizations and local Jewish community relations councils, the AZM contacted various communities, supplying them with programming materials, photos and biographical information of nearly 300 victims, and suggesting selections of poetry and psalms.

Each community has designed the program its own way, said Karen Rubinstein, executive director of the AZM.

The key theme is to show "the individualism of the people who have been killed."

Indeed, the massive amount of Israeli deaths from terror can create a tendency to "just see numbers," said Riva Gambert, director of the Israel task force of the Jewish Federation of the Greater East Bay in Oakland, Calif.

In partnership with a local pro-Israel Christian group, Schindler's Ark — founded by the niece of Oskar Schindler, a non-Jewish German who rescued more than 1,000 Jews from the Nazis — the federation scheduled a four-hour afternoon vigil Wednesday at a synagogue in the heart of Oakland's business district.

Dozens of people from both the Jewish community and Schindler's Ark were planning to read the names of all those killed by terror in Israel since the outbreak of the latest Palestinian intifada in the fall of 2000. The group was planning to also incorporate songs and prayers, including the Mourner's Kaddish.

Gambert hopes the program will attach the human dimension to the statistics "to make people realize there is a family and friends and colleagues and fellow students who have a loss now that that person is gone."

In New York, the names of each individual lost to terror since the outbreak of the intifada was read, with 80 singled out for more substantive memorialization.

Those 80 were selected because they "reflect the diversity of the victims," said Rubinstein. They vary in age, gender and background, including, for example, an elderly leader of the Ethiopian community.

Their biographies were compiled primarily from information listed on Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Web site, which has posted pictures and biographies of the 571 victims who had been killed by Palestinian-sponsored terror between September 2000 and June 30, 2002.

Representatives of an additional 14 Jewish organizations in New York had signed up to read aloud the names and stories of the victims. Local dignitaries, including the

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See above \*

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Arafat open to a prime minister?

Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat may consider the appointment of a Palestinian prime minister, according to a senior Palestinian official. Arafat would be open to the idea of having a prime minister run the day-to-day affairs of government if a Palestinian state is declared after January elections, Cabinet member Nabil Sha'ath told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

Arafat "says in an independent state there needs to be a prime minister," Sha'ath said. "The prime minister solves a lot of daily problems that the president should not address."

Ra'anan Gissin, spokesman for Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, said the idea of Arafat remaining as president was acceptable to Israel "as long as Arafat does not stand in the way" of significant reforms. "The question is how to make it so his influence is not harmful," Gissin said.

### Israel fires on Gaza building

Israeli warplanes fired Wednesday on a building in the Gaza Strip. Israeli sources said the building was used by Hamas to produce mortars and rockets.

Palestinian sources said the factory was a metal shop.

### Soldiers may have sold arms

Four Israeli soldiers from two West Bank settlements are suspected of selling ammunition to Palestinians in the Hebron area. The four allegedly supplied thousands of bullets for pistols and automatic weapons to Palestinian arms dealers from the Hebron area over the past three years, reports said. The four admitted to the allegations against them, the army said.

Two of the suspects are brothers from the settlement of Adura. Five Israelis were killed in April following a terrorist infiltration of the settlement, which is located near Hebron.



## Daily News Bulletin

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speaker of the New York City Council, Gifford Miller, and city council members spoke at the event and read the biographies of victims.

Some of the strongest pro-Israel words came from the former city comptroller, Alan Hevesi, who read about the life and death of 45-year old Morel Derfler, a renowned photographer.

Palestinians "allegedly" want peace, but could have had it two years ago or 30 years ago, he said.

The "Palestinian Authority wants to win by intifada" and "murder," when it "could easily win" at the negotiating table like Egypt or Jordan.

Later, a lone Palestinian activist wove through the crowd shouting "Free Palestine!" to a crowd that ignored him.

In Baltimore, meanwhile, the city whose prominent vigil last year sparked the current widespread phenomenon, the weeklong vigil has caught the attention of three local television stations.

Each day this week, passers-by stopped to view placards of Israeli victims of terror that were decorated by children in area Jewish summer camps.

The placards jut from stakes in the ground on the lawn of the Baltimore Hebrew Congregation, an effect aimed at resembling a graveyard.

Throughout the week, members of the Baltimore Jewish community read the biographies of the more than 400 people killed in Israel since Tisha B'Av of last year. At that vigil, they memorialized those Israelis killed since the start of the current intifada in September 2000.

The bulk of the 84 hours spent reading the names of the victims was carved out to nearly all the Jewish organizations in Baltimore.

But according to Jerome Kiewe, executive director of the Baltimore Zionist District, one of the most compelling parts of the event has been the "open mike" sessions, when anyone can voice their feelings.

It "becomes something of a group therapy," Kiewe said.

For 69-year old Shani Lerner, a past president of the Baltimore chapter of Hadassah: The Women's Zionist Organization of America, reading aloud the names and biographies of the victims has made the tragedy more real.

"As you look at the life of those who were killed," she said, "you realize" their hopes and dreams and "the things that they could have been, and they can't be anymore."

"I consider the people of Israel my family," Lerner said. And for the pain that they suffer, "I feel, too." □

## Day school to open in Cologne: 'Jews have confidence' in Germany

By Toby Axelrod

BERLIN (JTA) — The German city of Cologne will soon have its first Jewish elementary school since World War II.

Starting this September, about 20 first-graders will attend classes at the Lauder Morijah Elementary School, named for both a school that existed prior to the Nazi era and for the New York-based Ronald S. Lauder Foundation.

The charitable organization contributed \$1.4 million toward the construction of the school and a new social service center, a project that had been put on hold because of funding problems. The building is now expected to be finished by 2003.

Within a few years, Rabbi Binjamin Krauss, director of the Lauder foundation in Germany, expects to have enough pupils to fill four grades. Until the new Jewish center is completed, children will meet in the city's Jewish community center. The new building will include a synagogue, kindergarten, old age home, meeting rooms and social halls.

At a July 3 ceremony, Paul Spiegel, head of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, called the new school a "sign that Jews have confidence in this country."

The total cost of the building project is approximately \$19 million. Financing has been secured with help from the Lauder Foundation, from the state of North-Rhine Westphalia for security elements, and from the Protestant church. □

## JEWISH WORLD

### U.S. legislators seek AMIA justice

The U.S. Congress is calling on the president of Argentina to do more to find those responsible for the 1994 bombing of the AMIA Jewish community center in Buenos Aires.

In a letter circulating on Capitol Hill on the eighth anniversary of the bombing, lawmakers asked President Eduardo Duhalde to find the masterminds of the attack. The letter, supported by B'nai B'rith International, also called on Argentina to focus on a possible international link in the attack.

### Court OKs after-school worship

A U.S. judge ruled that worship could take place in a public school during after-school hours. Agudath Israel of America, which supported the New York case, welcomed the ruling. The New York case is one of several that are testing the limits of last year's Supreme Court decision, which defended the right of a Christian youth club to meet in a public school building after school hours.

Agudah, a fervently Orthodox group, said the ruling would help newly formed or temporarily displaced synagogues that need temporary accommodations. The Anti-Defamation League criticized the ruling, saying the judge took an overly broad view of the Supreme Court case.

### ADL provides workplace guide

The Anti-Defamation League released a guide detailing U.S. laws on accommodating religious observance in the workplace. "Religious Accommodation in the Workplace" offers employees and employers general information on relevant federal laws.

### Former Nazi found unfit for trial

An 89-year-old former Nazi SS sergeant was found unfit to stand trial in Germany.

Prosecutors in the eastern city of Cottbus had sought murder charges against the man, who allegedly shot three inmates at the Lieberose concentration camp in 1945.

But doctors ruled that the man, whose identity was withheld by prosecutors, was senile and could not be tried, The Associated Press reported.

Nazi SS guards are believed to have killed a total of 1,200 Jewish captives of Lieberose in February 1945 because they were deemed too weak for a death march away from advancing Soviet forces.

### Rio may get Brazil's first Hillel

Hillel may soon open a branch in Rio de Janeiro. The project, which would lead to the first Hillel center in Brazil, was presented recently to the leaders of Rio's Jewish community. According to plans, the center would be opened within a few months.

## Two infants were among victims of ambush at West Bank settlement

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The toll from this week's terror attack against Israelis was particularly chilling: Among the dead was one infant who had not yet entered the world when the terrorists struck.

A second infant was one of three generations of one family wiped out in Tuesday's ambush of a bus near the West Bank settlement of Immanuel.

The premature baby died Wednesday after his mother, Yehudit Weinberg, 22, was wounded in the attack.

She was eight months pregnant when the emergency Caesarean section was performed. Weinberg was reported in serious condition Wednesday.

The other infant killed in Tuesday's attack was 9-month-old Tiferet Sarah Shilon. Her father, Gal, 35, and grandmother, Zilpa Kashi, 69, were also killed.

Tiferet's mother and two siblings — a twin sister, Galia Esther, and a 30-month-old brother, Or-Chaim — were wounded in the attack.

The other victims in the attack, all from Immanuel, were identified as Galila Ades, 46; Yonatan Gamliel, 16; Karen Kashani, 20; and Ilana Siton, 35. Sixteen people remained hospitalized Wednesday. At least one was reported in critical condition.

The tragedy of the Shilon family stood out amid the horror of the attack.

Gal Shilon was killed by the terrorists when he ran to the scene to try to help his family after his wife, Ayelet, called on a cell phone from the bus to tell him of the attack. "They're shooting at us," Ayelet Shilon was quoted as telling her husband. "There are terrorists here. They set off explosives."

She and her family were returning from a visit to her mother's home in Givatayim, near Tel Aviv, when the terrorists detonated bombs that stopped the bus and then opened fire on fleeing passengers.

After getting his wife's phone call, Gal Shilon tried without success to find a neighbor who could drive him to the settlement's entrance.

He finally got a lift with a gardener.

When they arrived at the scene, the terrorists, who were dressed in Israeli army uniforms, opened fire on them.

The Shilon family moved to the fervently Orthodox settlement of Immanuel from central Israel two years ago after becoming religiously observant.

Gal Shilon, who had a pilot's license, devoted himself to religious studies at the settlement.

"This was such a special family," the Israeli daily Yediot Achronot newspaper quoted one Immanuel resident as saying. "Quiet and pleasant people who wanted to help everyone."

Another passenger, Gamliel called his mother from his cell phone shortly after the roadside bombs were detonated.

"Mom, there was an attack, I'm OK," the youth told his mother, according to the rabbi of Immanuel, Yitzhak Anaki.

Shortly afterward, Gamliel was killed by terrorist gunfire.

Gamliel was on his way home from Bnei Brak, where he had just completed three years of study at a yeshiva.

Anaki described Gamliel as a "conscientious, talented and serious" young man who understood the importance of his religious studies. A friend, Natan, told Israel Radio that Gamliel was always ready to help other students.

The friend, who was also planning to continue studies at Kol Yehuda, said their parting exchange was "that we'd meet next year at the yeshiva."

Gamliel is survived by his parents and six siblings.

For the extended Siton family, this was the second brush with tragedy.

Last December, four daughters of a cousin of Ilana's husband were wounded in a terror attack near Immanuel that involved nearly identical tactics.

Following the December attack, in which Arab terrorists killed 10 Israelis, the father of the four girls decided the security situation was too grave to remain in Immanuel, and the family left the settlement. □

## France marks 60 years since largest roundup of nation's Jews

By Lauren Elkin

PARIS (JTA) — Sixty years ago this week, more than 12,800 Parisian Jews were rounded up by the Vichy government, the first step on their road to Auschwitz.

Some 9,000 French civil servants, 4,000 of whom were police, were mobilized for the operation and 60 train cars were used to transport the arrested Jews.

Before they were loaded into cattle cars and sent out of the city of Paris, they were gathered in an indoor bicycle stadium, the Velodrome d'Hiver — “Vel d'Hiv” for short.

Today, the words “Vel d'Hiv” are synonymous with “collaboration” and “shame” for the French, not to mention a reminder of the overzealousness of the French chief of police, Rene Bousquet, who did not wait for the green light from Adolf Eichmann to begin rounding up the Parisian Jews.

This week, the Center of Contemporary Jewish Documentation, sponsored by the Town Hall of Paris, is commemorating the 60th anniversary of the deportations from the Vel d'Hiv with five days of documentaries, feature films and debates.

Such an event is typical of the French inclination toward memory, what many here see as the sacred French duty of actively remembering the past in order to come to terms with it.

This raid was not the first to take place in Paris.

There were earlier ones in 1941. But the July 16-17 roundup was by far the largest — and women, children, and the elderly were not spared.

It also marked a turning point in the persecution of Jews in France: 38 convoys of 1,000 deportees each made their way from France to Auschwitz between July 17, 1942, and Nov. 11, 1942.

The feature films and documentaries, which include films in French, English, Yiddish, Hebrew, Polish, Czech, and German, are mainly concerned with the Parisian events, but put them in their larger European context.

The program also includes the French premiere of the American documentary “The Optimists: The Story of the Rescue of the Jews of Bulgaria,” by Jacky Comforty. Winner of the 2001 Berlin Film Festival and Best Documentary at the 2000 Jerusalem Film Festival, this documentary traces the story of the Bulgarian Jewish community.

A similar commemoration is at the Gare Saint Lazare in Paris until July 21: a photographic exhibit called “Deported Jewish Children of France.” The exhibit is based on the recent book of the same title by French lawyer and famed Nazi-hunter Serge Klarsfeld, and is being sponsored by the French Association of the Sons and Daughters of Jewish Deportees in association with the Beate Klarsfeld Foundation.

The photographs are accompanied by names, dates of birth and anecdotes, and depict the children with pets and siblings, dressed up for parties and at the beach.

On July 7, the exhibit was vandalized.

The suspect, Christiane Castillon, 55, who had no prior police record and doesn't apparently belong to any extremist organization, said that “people make too many allowances for Jews where the Holocaust is concerned.” Several panels were destroyed, particularly those on which the word “Jew” appeared. Castillon tried to efface the word with white paint. □

## In rare move, Israel praises Amnesty International report

By Max Heuer

NEW YORK (JTA) — It's an odd sight: Israel welcoming a report from Amnesty International.

But after Amnesty issued a report late last week criticizing Palestinian terror attacks on Israeli civilians as “crimes against humanity,” Israeli leaders spoke up for the human rights group.

“I'm really happy that Amnesty officials have seen the light,” Israeli Justice Minister Meir Sheetrit told The Associated Press. “They finally understand that we have no interest in harming Palestinians but just protecting our citizens.”

Israeli officials and Jewish leaders have long criticized Amnesty and other human rights groups as being one-sided in their reporting on the Middle East conflict.

Palestinian Authority Cabinet Secretary Ahmed Abdul Rahman said that although the Palestinian Authority condemns the bombings of Israeli civilians, they are “a normal consequence of their occupation and rejection of Palestinian rights.”

The report, “Without Distinction: Attacks on Civilians by Palestinian Armed Groups” addresses what it identifies as 130 attacks since the outbreak of the intifada in September 2000 that have resulted in the deaths of 350 Israeli citizens — including over 60 children.

“The attacks by Palestinian armed groups are widespread, systematic and in pursuit of an explicit policy to attack civilians. They therefore constitute crimes against humanity under international law,” Amnesty says in the report.

While the new report notes Israeli violations of human rights, it sides strongly with advocates of the Jewish state by declaring that “no violations by the Israeli government, no matter their scale or gravity, justify” the killing of civilians.

The report was delivered in the Gaza Strip, instead of New York, to send a clear message to those parties it was directed at, said Joshua Rubenstein, northeast regional director of Amnesty International U.S.A.

The latest Amnesty report, some Jewish observers say, is exactly what the group's policy has lacked.

Dina Siegel Vann, U.N. and Latin American affairs director for B'nai B'rith International, called the report “very welcome” and said that Amnesty had been portraying “moral equivalency” in the Middle East conflict.

She said this policy was “not taking into consideration the whole context, the teaching of hatred.”

However, Rubenstein said, “We studiously never used the term ‘moral equivalency,’ and called the term ‘a dodge’ by Jewish leaders to avoid criticism of Israeli human rights violations.

Amnesty's “job is to report on what one side is doing and what the other side is doing, not to compare or elevate,” he said.

Siegel Vann called previous Amnesty reports “simplistic” and “not complete.”

In the past year, Amnesty has issued a number of reports criticizing both Palestinian terrorist actions and Israeli operations in the West Bank. It also participated in “International Days of Mourning” in protest of human rights violations against both Israelis and Palestinians.

The new report also criticized some of the U.N.'s actions during the past 20 months regarding the Middle East conflict. □