

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Bombing victims identified

Five Americans were among the seven people killed in Wednesday's terrorist bombing at Hebrew University's Mt. Scopus campus. [Page 1]

### U.N.: No Jenin massacre

A U.N. report said there was no massacre by Israeli forces when they took control of the Jenin refugee camp during an anti-terror operation last April. Released Thursday, the report indicates that Palestinian allegations that 500 or more Palestinians were killed in the camp were not substantiated.

Echoing previous Israeli statements, it says that about 52 Palestinians and 23 Israeli soldiers were killed during clashes.

Israel's Foreign Ministry hailed the report, saying it "overwhelmingly negates" Palestinian claims of a massacre and "repudiates the malicious lies spread regarding the issue."

The report "also confirms that Israel's counter-terrorist operations came in reaction to a grim wave of suicide terrorism," the ministry said. [Page 4]

### Bush 'as angry as Israel'

President Bush said he was "just as angry as Israel is right now" over the loss of innocent life, including the deaths of five Americans, in Wednesday's terror attack at Hebrew University.

Meeting at the White House Thursday with Jordan's King Abdullah, Bush said he was "furious" over the latest act of Palestinian terror. He added that the United States is responding to the attack by "working with our Arab friends and Israel to track these people down." Bush said Israel "must defend herself," but should keep a vision of peace in mind.

### Peres: Palestinians killing future

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Palestinians are "killing their own future" as long as they do not have a central security structure.

Speaking at the White House on Thursday after meeting with President Bush, Peres said Palestinians could take over the security of different cities once Palestinian officials are "able and willing" to do so. Peres also met with National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice, Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage, leaders of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee and Senate Democrats.

## On day after bombing, families and friends remember the victims

By Joe Berkofsky

NEW YORK (JTA) — Long before the dreaded call came, Linda and Michael Bennett knew that their daughter Marla was dead.

Like many American parents whose children live or study in Israel, the San Diego couple had grown accustomed to the reassuring call that came after each terrorist attack.

"Every time a bomb would go off, Marla would call within 10 or 15 minutes because she didn't want them to worry," said Norm Greene, a close friend of the family.

On Wednesday, after a bombing in the cafeteria of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, the call never came. The Bennetts frantically tried to track down their daughter, a 24-year-old who had been doing joint graduate work at Pardes Institute for Jewish Studies and the Hebrew University.

"When the phone didn't ring, we all knew," Greene said.

Still, the Bennetts and friends desperately hoped that maybe Marla "was injured, in a hospital somewhere," Greene added. They spent an agonizing day frantically searching for information, even e-mailing dental records to Israeli authorities that could help identify Marla.

At 10 p.m., with the help of Israeli diplomat Benny Navon and FBI officials, who tracked information through the Israeli police, a call of a different kind came.

It was Navon, who called to unofficially confirm Marla's death.

"It's the worst nightmare for any parent," Greene said. "Everybody loved Marla, except some S.O.B. with a cell-phone bomb detonator."

But the family's painful day wasn't over. At 2 a.m. a State Department official called to ask the Bennetts what arrangements they wanted to make for Marla's body.

"That's the way they notify us?" Greene asked. "It's inhumane."

State Department officials could not immediately comment on the matter, except to offer their "condolences" for the families of the five Americans and two Israelis killed in the attack. At least 80 people were wounded.

When Wednesday began, the Bennetts were preparing to welcome Marla. She was planning to take a leave from Pardes to attend a friend's wedding and a bar-mitzvah in the United States, and to spend the High Holidays with her family. Then she planned to return to Israel to complete a two-year program to become a Jewish day school teacher.

In an essay she wrote for the San Diego Jewish Press-Heritage and for the Pardes school, Bennett said she was aware of the dangers of living in Jerusalem.

But they were outweighed, she said, by the "magical" nature of living there and being able "to assist, however minimally, in Israel's triumph."

"She loved living a life of meaning," said David Bernstein, dean of the Pardes Institute, which offers courses in Jewish textual study. "Students here are all aware of the dangers. There are some, like Marla, who make a decision to stay here, and do so out of a love for Israel and a love for Judaism."

One Pardes faculty member, Meesh Hammer-Kossoy, said Bennett was an extremely spiritual woman who "was really in touch with the divine."

Bennett was sharing a table in the popular Frank Sinatra Cafeteria with her friend and Pardes colleague, Benjamin Blutstein, 25, who was from Susquehanna Township, Pennsylvania.

Blutstein, who like Bennett had just extended a two-year stay in Jerusalem for two more years, had been due back in the United States on Thursday to visit his family.

His father, Dr. Richard Blutstein, called Benjamin's cell phone early Wednesday hoping to call and discuss travel plans, and left a message. After learning of the attack

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Israeli's body found near Tulkarm

The body of an Israeli who was bound and shot in the head was discovered Thursday near Tulkarm.

The Israeli army accused Palestinian gunmen of shooting Shani Ladani, 27, at close range at the Buds of Peace industrial zone.

### Astronaut to fly in December

The NASA space shuttle mission that includes Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon will be delayed until December. NASA officials are expected to make an announcement Friday about the rescheduled flight.

The flight was postponed from its mid-July launch date following the discovery of cracks in propulsion system equipment aboard two sister shuttles.

### Hamas mom: Hands off my son

The wife of a Hamas leader said she would not allow her son to become a martyr for the Palestinian cause. Umm Mohammed, wife of Hamas spokesman Abdel Aziz Rantissi, told Hamas activists who called to recruit her son for a suicide mission that instead he will finish his studies.

The telephone conversation apparently was recorded by Palestinian intelligence forces, according to the Israeli daily Ha'aretz. Israeli security forces found a recording of the conversation in Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's Ramallah compound earlier this year, the paper reported.

### Hebrew U. paper foretold attack

Hebrew University's student newspaper ran two articles in April warning of lax security at the school. One of the articles described a hypothetical terror attack at the Frank Sinatra cafeteria, site of Wednesday's deadly bombing, the paper's editor-in-chief, Yaniv Toghryef, told The Associated Press. At the time, the university assured students that security at the campus was adequate, he said Thursday.

and failing to hear from his son, Blutstein called friends in Israel to track Ben down.

By 4 p.m., the family received official notification of Blutstein's death from the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv.

Those close to him described Blutstein as a young man dedicated to learning about Judaism and working as a disc jockey. In Israel, where religious and secular societies are largely separate, Blutstein's ability to merge the two worlds was rare, and left an impact, some said.

With his crocheted yarmulke, ritual fringes, earring and open shirt, "it drove the religious people crazy and it drove the secular people crazy," his father said.

Pardes officials described Benjamin as a kind of class clown who was also very serious about his studies. He often played bongo drums at Pardes parties, Bernstein recalled, yet "took living according to Jewish law very seriously."

The elder Blutstein had visited his son in May. He recalled how an Israeli rap musician asked Benjamin, who played trance and techno music at Jerusalem clubs, to perform at a rave party in Tel Aviv demonstrating against the Israeli presence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"His politics wasn't along those lines, but he went," his father said. "He warmed up for an Arab rap group, whom he criticized — not for their politics, but for their music. He was not primarily political. He felt Israel had a right to exist, and that the Arabs had not been acting nice."

Like others, Blutstein was aware of the dangers he faced in Jerusalem.

In a letter to his family last Thanksgiving, he wrote that some "might think I'm kind of crazy for being in a dangerous part of the world. Perhaps they are right. But I feel that I'm doing something very important. I am growing and changing. I don't know where this learning is taking me, but I think it's where I should be going."

Another victim was Janis Ruth Coulter, 36, assistant director of admissions for overseas students at Hebrew University's Rothberg International School.

Coulter arrived in Israel on Tuesday to accompany 19 graduate students about to begin intensive Hebrew language classes.

"Janis was extremely committed to Hebrew University and what it stands for," said her friend, Lisa Magnas, a descendant of university founder Judah Magnes and president of the university's American alumni association.

Every one from the American Friends of Hebrew University office in New York "goes to Israel once a year, and this was her turn," Magnas said. "She was really excited about going. She died for everything she believed in."

Coulter, a convert to Judaism who grew up in West Roxbury, Mass., "always felt that Jerusalem was her second love," said Peter Willner, executive vice president of AFHU.

Coulter's first love was New York, Magnas said, and she seemed to attend every Hebrew University event in the city that she could.

When Coulter arrived in Jerusalem this week, she called an AFHU official to tell him "that she felt like she was home again," Willner added.

Another U.S. citizen killed in the attack was David Gritz, 24, of Peru, Mass., a small town in the Berkshire Mountains.

Gritz was the son of a Croatian mother and American father who grew up in Paris but spent summers at the family's Berkshire home.

He also held Israeli citizenship, and was about to begin a Hebrew course and a graduate course in Jewish thought at the Rothberg School.

He received his B.A. in philosophy from the University of Paris IV in July, 2000, and had just completed his first year of studies for a master's degree in philosophy.

Also killed was Dina Carter, 37, who was born in North Carolina and moved to Israel in 1990.

Carter worked as a librarian and archivist in the National Library on Mount Scopus, having studied anthropology at Duke University.

Two Jerusalem residents also died in the attack: David Diego Ladowski, 29, an immigrant from Argentina who was a cadet in the Israeli consular corps, and Levina Shapira, 53, who was from a prominent Jerusalem family.

Bernstein of the Pardes school said the loss of these young people would be felt for a long time.

"It is a tragedy for the thousands of students who would have had these people as teachers," he said. "Now, they will never have that opportunity." □



## Daily News Bulletin

Norman H. Lipoff, *President*

Mark J. Joffe, *Executive Editor and Publisher*

Lisa Hostein, *Editor*

Michael S. Arnold, *Managing Editor*

Lenore A. Silverstein, *Finance and Administration Director*

Paula Simmonds, *Marketing and Development Director*

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).  
© JTA Reproduction only by previous arrangement.

## JEWISH WORLD

### U.S. plans High Holiday security

The U.S. Attorney General said law enforcement will reach out to Jewish institutions in advance of the High Holidays.

Local U.S. attorney and FBI field offices will contact synagogues and other Jewish communal institutions before Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, John Ashcroft told Orthodox Union officials in a recent meeting. The offices plan to coordinate security and safety issues.

### AIPAC praises U.S. efforts at U.N.

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee praised U.S. efforts to prevent anti-Israel resolutions at the United Nations.

In a letter to President Bush and Secretary of State Colin Powell, AIPAC's president, Amy Friedkin, said U.S. support for Israel is "vital" at this time.

### Democrats press for Israel aid

The National Jewish Democratic Council is urging President Bush to sign a bill that would give Israel \$200 million in aid.

Last week, both houses of Congress authorized the bill, which also calls for \$50 million in aid for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"President Bush should sign this legislation," said Ira Forman, NJDC's executive director.

"If the president fails to back his rhetoric with action, the rest of the world will receive a poor message concerning U.S. support for the State of Israel," he said.

### Group calls for crackdown

A crackdown on anti-Semitic acts must be on the "front burner" of European countries, the Simon Wiesenthal Center said. Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the center, testified at a hearing Thursday of the U.S. Congress' Human Rights Caucus that the European Union must deal with such acts in an aggressive manner.

Cooper noted that there has been some improvement in France in its response to recent anti-Semitic acts. The Anti-Defamation League and the American Jewish Committee also testified at the hearing.

### Florida man loses citizenship

A U.S. court revoked the citizenship of a Florida man charged with participating in Nazi-sponsored acts of persecution. Michael Gorshkow, 79, was an interpreter and interrogator for the Gestapo and participated in killing 3,000 people in 1943, according to the U.S. Justice Department's Nazi-hunting unit, the Office of Special Investigations.

Gorshkow recently left the United States and has not responded to the government's case against him.

## New Israeli ambassador takes post at time of close ties, new challenges

By Matthew E. Berger

WASHINGTON (JTA) — As Israel's next ambassador to Washington, Danny Ayalon enters an empty space in the American capital, both literally and figuratively.

Sitting on a couch in his sparsely decorated office, Ayalon speaks of his new position, which has been vacant since David Ivry returned to Israel in April after a two-year posting. But even though the chair at Ayalon's desk has been empty for just a few months, many in the American Jewish community and the public at large feel Israel has not had a public face in America for quite some time.

Ivry, a former air force commander who spoke heavily accented English, shunned television cameras and did not interact with Jewish groups to the extent that many Jewish leaders wanted. As the Israeli-Palestinian conflict spun violently out of control, the frustration level among American Jewish officials increased. The task of presenting Israel's case often fell to ad hoc spokesmen like former Prime Ministers Benjamin Netanyahu or Ehud Barak — neither of whom currently holds an official position — or aides to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

Now Jewish groups hope that Ayalon will fill the void of a public spokesman for the Jewish state who carries diplomatic rank. While not a television fixture, Ayalon has done interviews in the past, and is expected to continue to take media calls.

A foreign policy adviser to the last three Israeli prime ministers, Ayalon, 46, brings a youthful spirit to the Washington post, coupled with significant experience with the U.S.-Israeli relationship. He is considered to have strong ties to the Bush administration, particularly to National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice, who was Ayalon's counterpart until he got the Washington job.

"It's rare to have somebody walking in the door who is already on the front lines of the relationship," said an official with a Jewish organization. "He is going to be very popular here."

Ayalon is no stranger to the United States, having received a master's in business from Bowling Green University in Ohio in 1983. His wife is American.

By all accounts, the Washington-Jerusalem relationship has not been hampered by the lack of an Israeli envoy for the past few months. During that interval, Bush presented what historically is one of the most Israel-friendly plans for Middle Eastern diplomacy, calling for a change of Palestinian leadership and significant institutional changes before a Palestinian state can be established.

Ayalon acknowledges that the White House and Israel seem to be largely on the same page at the moment.

But he says Israel must continue trying to strengthen ties. He specifically cites trade and investments, hoping to boost the current level of \$15 billion in annual bilateral trade to \$20 billion.

He also said it is important to reiterate that Israel "will never give up the quest to make progress" in its conflict with the Palestinians.

Ayalon welcomed the news that U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell will meet next week with Palestinian officials.

While Israel and the United States should not dictate who the Palestinians' leaders should be, Ayalon said "it's important for the Palestinian people to understand the impact of their leadership on all of their plights."

New challenges for Ayalon are emerging. With talk rife of a possible U.S. attack on Iraq, Ayalon will need to know of attack plans in advance so Israel can prepare as best as possible for any Iraqi retaliation.

The increasing threat from Hezbollah and the organization's deepening ties to Syria also are beginning to garner attention in the United States.

Ayalon says he will use the current stability in bilateral ties to focus on relations with American Jewish groups. And he said he would like to urge American Jews to take a larger responsibility for Israel's fate.

"The State of Israel is a Jewish state not by virtue of the characteristics of the state, but it's a Jewish state in the sense that it is the state of the Jews," he said. "It's a joint enterprise, and we have an equal share of it." □

## U.N. says no massacre in Jenin, but groups say report still biased

By Rachel Pomerance

NEW YORK (JTA) — A U.N. report on the April battle in the Jenin refugee camp refutes Palestinian allegations of an Israeli massacre and vindicates the Jewish state, Israel and Jewish groups say. But they aren't entirely happy with the report, complaining that it contains bias and errors.

Released Thursday, the report could finally put an end to the international community's inquisition into Israel's invasion of the Jenin camp, which aimed to root out the terrorist infrastructure there.

Known as the suicide bombers' capital, Jenin had been the home base for 28 suicide bombers since the intifada began in September 2000, according to Israeli officials.

Israeli officials welcomed the report, saying that it cleared up "misconceptions" about a massacre.

The report rejects the Palestinian claim that some 500 Palestinians were killed in the battle, corroborating Israeli figures of 52 Palestinian dead, most of them fighters.

A senior Israeli Foreign Ministry official said "the report is absolutely categorical, there was no massacre, and statements by the Palestinian leadership talking about hundreds of civilians that were killed were nothing more than atrocity propaganda," a senior Foreign Ministry official said.

A Palestinian official called the report "an important step."

Israel's refusal to allow a U.N. fact-finding team to visit the Jenin camp, and its unwillingness to submit material to U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan, forced Annan to rely on second-hand sources, the report stresses.

Jewish submissions were slight in comparison with the Arab ones — and it seems they were considered as such.

A senior U.N. official said the single Jewish submission, a 150-page document from the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, was problematic.

The document compiles news reports and eyewitness accounts that discredit the massacre accusations. However, its use of anonymous eyewitnesses accounts compromised its credibility, said the U.N. official, who asked not to be named.

The United Nations corroborated the Conference of Presidents' submission with statements by Israeli officials and material from Israel's Foreign Ministry and army Web sites, according to Stephane Dujarric, a spokesman for Annan.

The report states that "United Nations officials criticized Israel for its handling of humanitarian access in the aftermath of the battle and, in particular, its refusal to facilitate full and safe access to the affected populations in violation of its obligations under international humanitarian law."

But, in its harshest language, the report states that "Palestinian militants in the camp, as elsewhere, adopted methods which constitute breaches of international law that have been and continue to be condemned by the United Nations."

That was a reference to suicide bombings, a senior U.N. source said. The report also accuses Palestinians of violating international law by stockpiling weapons and mixing fighters among civilians in the densely-populated camp.

The American Jewish Committee disputed portions of the report, but described the confirmation that no massacre took place

in Jenin as a "welcome development."

"The report validates Israel's contention all along," said David Harris, the group's executive director.

Mortimer Zuckerman, chairman of the Conference of Presidents, had more concerns. "There is much in the report that is incorrect or misrepresents what actually occurred," he said.

"The disproportionate space accorded the behavior of the" Israel Defense Force "as opposed to that of the terrorists is immediately obvious," he said. "The failure to identify those engaged in these barbaric attacks as terrorists but rather referring to them as 'militants' again reflects the bias."

The report does mention and condemn Palestinian terrorism, stating that Israel's attack came after a Passover eve suicide bombing in Netanya that killed 28 and injured more than 100.

Among the report's findings are:

- Israel blocked humanitarian care to Palestinians. "As the fighting began to subside, ambulances and medical personnel were prevented by IDF from reaching the wounded within the camp, despite repeated requests to IDF to facilitate access for ambulances and humanitarian delegates, including those of the United Nations."

- Israel targeted ambulances. "It appears that, in addition to the denial of aid, IDF in some instances targeted medical personnel," the report states, citing the March killing of an UNRWA staff member aboard an ambulance and the April shooting of a uniformed Palestinian nurse.

- Palestinians booby-trapped the refugee camp. "Human rights reports support the assertions that some buildings had been booby-trapped by the Palestinian combatants."

- Israeli soldiers made arbitrary arrests and used Palestinian civilians as human shields. The report refers to numerous accounts of IDF soldiers forcing Palestinian civilians to accompany them during house searches, check suspicious subjects and stand in the line of fire.

- Israeli forces excessively destroyed Palestinian property. "Operation Defensive Shield resulted in the widespread destruction of Palestinian property," such as computers and photocopying machines, "that did not appear to be related to military objectives."

Some Jewish leaders say those accusations are inaccurate, or distort the true picture through an artificial even-handedness.

For example, where the report accuses Israel of targeting ambulances, it mentions Israel's "explanation" — though the Israeli contention that Palestinians were using ambulances to transport weapons and fighters is incontrovertibly documented.

Some fear that the report will provide fodder for future attacks on Israel. The report gives "further life" to the inaccurate accusations against Israel, said Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League. "Students of the Middle East will now be able to refer to a U.N. document on the subject which is full of unsubstantiated reports and innuendos."

The report comes after Israel rebuffed a Security Council decision to send a fact-finding mission to Jenin in April. Israel initially accepted the mission but later refused after Annan expanded the team's mandate and ignored Israeli concerns about its composition.

Annan ultimately disbanded the mission, opting instead to assemble his own report on the Jenin battle, in line with a General Assembly resolution.

Despite the inability to visit the scene of the battle, Annan said he was "confident that the picture painted in this report is a fair representation of a complex reality." □