



# Daily News Bulletin

Vol. 80, No. 149

Monday, August 12, 2002

85th Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Israeli killed in terror infiltration

An Israeli woman was killed and her husband moderately wounded in a terrorist infiltration of a West Bank settlement Saturday night.

The terrorist opened fire on residents of Moshav Mekhora in the northern West Bank after cutting through the settlement's electronic security fence. The two children of Yafit Herenstein, 31, and her husband, Arno, were unharmed. [Page 4]

### Hebrew U. attack toll rises

The death toll from the July 31 terror attack at Hebrew University rose to eight.

Daphna Spruch, 61, who died Saturday, worked as an information systems coordinator at the university. Two people wounded in the attack remain in critical condition.

### Memorial for slain athletes

A memorial ceremony for the 11 Israelis killed at the 1972 Munich Olympics was held Sunday. [Page 3]

### Camp supervisor accused

A supervisor at a Los Angeles-area Orthodox day camp was charged with sexually abusing two boys, aged 4 and 5.

David Schwartz, 35, who led the preschool program at Camp Ruach in Culver City, Calif., was charged last week with six felony counts of lewd and lascivious behavior with minors under the age of 14 and one misdemeanor count of indecent exposure, the Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles reported.

Schwartz, who is married and has children of his own, has been placed on administrative leave from his job as a social studies teacher at Yeshivat Yavneh middle school in Los Angeles.

### Sharon to reconsider closings

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was scheduled to hold talks over the planned closing of Israeli embassy and consular offices abroad, following protests over the plans. The Cabinet recently approved closing the offices for budgetary reasons.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres authorized an initial list that included embassies in New Zealand, Zimbabwe, New Zealand, Panama and Belarus, and consulates in Montreal, Rio de Janeiro, Marseille, France, and Sydney, Australia.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES

### Feeling out of sync with mainstream, left-wing Jews carve out Israel niche

By Matthew E. Berger

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Bruce Robbins is not sure how he became a leader in a grass-roots movement of American Jews urging the United States to pressure Israel to make concessions to the Palestinians.

The Columbia University English professor was one of a handful of people who received an e-mail in the spring from a man he hardly knew, a physics professor at New York University with strong views on the Middle East.

Among Alan Sokal's comments was a call for the U.S. government to make aid to Israel conditional on Israel's acceptance of a two-state solution that includes a return to Israel's pre-1967 borders and an evacuation of all Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

One of the original 10 people to get that e-mail, Robbins signed on to the statement.

The next thing he knew, he was seeking additional supporters for an open letter from American Jews to the U.S. government, and working to place a half-page ad in The New York Times.

Now, Robbins is appearing on television, offering what he considers an "alternative" American Jewish view of Israel's military operations against Palestinian terrorism.

Recently, a day after an Israeli airstrike killed Hamas' military commander and at least 14 civilians in the Gaza Strip, Robbins appeared on MSNBC's "Donahue" program.

He appeared together with a PLO legal adviser and Israel's consul general in New York, Alon Pinkas, arguing that the attack was not in Israel's interest.

"The Hamas is certainly going to retaliate after the attack," Robbins said. "And the Israelis are going to retaliate. And the retaliation will go back and forth."

Robbins' group, made up mostly of academics, does not have a name or a budget, but it is getting attention.

Since a second, full-page ad ran in the Times in July, more than 1,700 people have signed Robbins' letter, and he is looking for more venues for his views.

"The idea is to make it clear to people in the United States that Jewish people are not a monolithic" bloc that always supports the Israeli government, Robbins said.

"There are a lot of us out there who are constructively critical."

More and more American Jews are seeking to voice opinions about the path to Middle East peace that are at odds with those of the Israeli government, the U.S. government and mainstream American Jewish groups.

With some Jews feeling left out and afraid to speak up, several grass-roots organizations are forming to articulate left-wing opinions and create an alternative to mainstream Jewish groups.

Since the Palestinian intifada against Israel began in September 2000, some Jewish groups that had pushed hard for the Oslo peace process found it increasingly difficult to speak up for peace with the Palestinians when suicide bombers and other terrorists were targeting Israelis.

For their part, leaders of mainstreams organizations, even on the left, say they are largely speaking with one voice these days because that view represents the vast majority of American Jews during the intifada.

"There has been substantial unity because there has been substantial unity," said Rabbi Eric Yoffie, president of the Reform movement's Union of American Hebrew Congregations, which has not hesitated to criticize the Israeli government in the past

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Arrow missiles deployed

Israel is deploying a second battery of Arrow anti-missile missiles in the center of the country. Last Friday, army officials confirmed the deployment near Hadera, but said the Arrow battery is being organized as part of a multi-year test program.

The deployment comes amid speculation that the United States will attack Iraq, though the White House says no decision has been made. Iraq has threatened to attack Israel if it is attacked by the United States.

### Delegation denied entry to Israel

U.S. congressional staffers sponsored by Jewish and Muslim groups were detained as they tried to enter Israel. The staffers were questioned and ultimately allowed through, but representatives from American Muslims for Jerusalem and Jews for Peace in Palestine and Israel were denied entry. The groups are waiting in Jordan while they try to persuade American officials to intervene.

Josh Ruebner, co-founder of JPPI, said he was not told why the groups were denied entry to Israel. He added that American and Israeli officials had assured him the delegation would be treated with respect. An official at the Israeli Consulate in New York said Israeli law allows the barring of groups whose intent is to demonstrate and disrupt public security.

### Melchior called security risk

A pilot for a Delta Airlines subsidiary refused to fly Israel's deputy foreign minister because he considered him a security risk. Michael Melchior, an aide and a bodyguard were on board the plane waiting to take off from Cincinnati to Toronto on Aug. 8 when the pilot learned of his Israeli passengers.

Melchior flew out on a later Delta flight before catching his connection to Israel, the paper said. This was the third incident in which American pilots refused to fly Israeli diplomats or personnel.



## Daily News Bulletin

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JTA DAILY NEWS BULLETIN is published five days a week, except holidays, by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Inc., 330 Seventh Ave., New York, N.Y. 10001-5010. For information about how to subscribe by e-mail, fax or regular mail, call (212) 643-1890, or visit our Web site at [www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org).  
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when it felt its policies were wrong. "Our community remains supportive of" Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's government, "although some may not be happy with that" he said of the Reform movement.

That has left many left-wing Jews feeling they have no one to represent their views to the White House or Congress.

Specifically, they want American Jews to criticize what they consider to be heavy-handed actions the Israeli government has taken, such as incursions into the West Bank, sieges of Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's Ramallah headquarters and the alleged expansion of settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"I don't know when it happened, but I think the Sharon government crossed a line with people," Robbins said. "A lot of people said, 'Not in my name.'"

In addition to ads, activists have taken to the streets, protesting outside Israeli consulates and holding vigils for Palestinian victims.

The recent Israeli airstrike in Gaza was a prime example of the type of move left-wingers want American Jewish groups to criticize.

"It's part of the hypocrisy and double standards," said Rabbi Michael Lerner, editor of Tikkun magazine, who has started to meet with lawmakers.

"We yell and scream when our own people are being killed, but are deathly silent when civilians are targeted on the other side."

Israeli officials have said they approved the attack based on intelligence information that no civilians were with the Hamas warlord, and that the massive bomb employed would cause little collateral damage.

Organizers say the grass-roots movements aim to give American Jews who are critical of Israeli actions and U.S. policy the feeling that they are not alone.

"We represent Jews who feel that it is not right for Israel to be occupying another people," said Josh Ruebner, founder of Jews for Peace in Palestine and Israel. "We represent Jews who feel Israel has a right to exist behind safe and secure, internationally recognized borders, but does not have the right to suppress its neighbors."

Ruebner and others claim the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the pro-Israel lobby, and other Jewish groups try to keep alternative Jewish voices from being heard on Capitol Hill.

Even when more left-wing voices do get through, Ruebner contends, lawmakers hesitate to act because of AIPAC's influence and fear that they will lose American Jewish political donations or be labeled anti-Semitic.

For its part, AIPAC says it, too, is a grass-roots organization and represents the views of most American Jews.

AIPAC officials say the organization's policy derives from an executive committee made up of leaders of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, an umbrella group of 54 Jewish organizations from across the ideological spectrum.

"AIPAC has always had critics," AIPAC spokeswoman Rebecca Needler said. "There are some that say AIPAC is too left and some that say it is too right."

There are clear differences between the mainstream American Jewish groups and the grass-roots movements, which tend to be on the far left.

On its report card for lawmakers, for example, Jews for Peace in Palestine and Israel gives a negative rating to any lawmaker that supported a congressional resolution — backed by most American Jewish groups — expressing solidarity with Israel. Jews for Peace claims the bill blamed ongoing violence entirely on the Palestinians.

Lerner, who has started a new grass-roots organization called Tikkun Community, sent an e-mail to supporters earlier this month suggesting that Jews send political contributions or help the campaign of Rep. Cynthia McKinney (D-Ga.). Other Jewish groups have called McKinney virulently anti-Israeli, if not anti-Semitic.

The grass-roots leaders say their movements are being taken seriously by Congress.

More mainstream groups on the left, such as Americans for Peace Now and the Israel Policy Forum, say they already have been expressing similar sentiments on Capitol Hill, seeking an end to Israeli settlement construction and demanding that Israel release frozen tax revenues to the Palestinians.

They note that their vision for an end to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is close to that of the grass-roots activists, including a two-state solution that would leave the Palestinians in control of virtually all of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. □

## JEWISH WORLD

### Charities see high premiums

Insurance premiums for Jewish charities have skyrocketed, forcing organizations to cut programs. Following Sept. 11, many Jewish federations and community centers have seen their premiums increase so much that they have been forced to lay off staff and cut offerings such as after-school programs for children and services for the elderly and the poor.

Insurance industry representatives deny Jewish groups are being singled out, saying other businesses and nonprofit groups are also seeing their premiums rise because of the danger of terrorism.

### Orthodox have most synagogues

Most U.S. synagogues are Orthodox, according to a new American Jewish Committee census. Of 3,727 synagogues throughout the United States, 40 percent belong to Orthodox congregations, the census said, while 26 percent are Reform and 23 percent are Conservative.

The other groups, including Reconstructionist and Secular Humanist, account for 3 percent or less of all synagogue affiliations, according to the 2001 survey. This is the first synagogue survey since a 1936 Census of Religious Bodies counted 2,851 synagogues, the AJCommittee said.

### NYC council members visit Israel

Twelve members of the New York City Council are making a solidarity visit to Israel this week. The visit was coordinated by the UJA-Federation of New York and the Jewish Community Relations Council. The City Council has been outspoken in its condemnation of terror attacks in Israel.

### Slain writers to be honored

An event in Washington will commemorate the 50th anniversary of "The Night of the Murdered Poets" in the Soviet Union. Monday's event — sponsored by NCSJ: Advocates on Behalf of Jews in Russia, Ukraine, the Baltic States and Eurasia — marks the night in 1952 when 13 Jews, several of whom were writers, were executed at Stalin's request for treason. At the event, the NCSJ is presenting the Russian ambassador to the United States with a copy of a booklet it printed to mark the 20th anniversary of the murders.

### Ex-Nazi must stay in jail

A former commandant in a Nazi labor camp must serve another 10 years of his life sentence. A German court ruled last Friday that Josef Schwammlinger's "particularly cruel" crimes outweighed concern over the 90-year-old's frail physical condition.

In 1992, he was found responsible for the deaths of hundreds of Jews during his time as commandant at several SS labor camps in Poland from 1942 to 1944.

## Thirty years after Munich massacre, families of Israeli athletes remember

By Toby Axelrod

BERLIN (JTA) — Esther Roth will never forget the Olympic Games of 1972. They were both the highlight of her youthful athletic career and — as they became a venue for terrorism — the most horrible moment.

"My coach was very happy because I had my best results for him. It was like a dream," said Roth, a former hurdler who is currently in Munich to cheer on Israel's team in the European athletic championships. She spoke to JTA by phone last week from Munich's Olympic Stadium.

Roth's coach, Amitzur Shapira, was one of 11 Israeli athletes killed by Palestinian terrorists during the Olympic Games in Munich on Sept. 7, 1972.

"Being around here makes me remember everything that happened 30 years ago," she said. "Some pictures you cannot forget. Some pictures are still with you for 30 years."

On Sunday, Roth joined 23 family members of the murdered athletes in a ceremony at a memorial near the stadium. Israeli Ambassador to Germany Shimon Stein and representatives of the local Jewish community attended the event, which was organized by the Israeli Light Athletics Association together with its European counterpart.

Together, they recalled the day when Israeli athletes were taken hostage by members of the Palestinian Black September guerrilla group. The terrorists killed their hostages during a botched rescue attempt by German police at the Furstenfeldbruck military airport.

During the one-hour ceremony, a large stone tablet was placed at the bridge linking the former Olympic village to the Olympic stadium. An Israeli flag was draped across the tablet. This week, for the first time since 1972, Israeli athletes are living in the same complex in which the hostages were taken. But much more security is provided now, Roth said.

"The world now is not the same as it was 30 years ago," said Roth, who also attended a small remembrance ceremony Aug. 5 at a memorial near the stadium. "Everything is security, security, security. Not because of us. After what happened on Sept. 11 in the United States, the world has changed. You cannot go free all the time."

The Israeli team leader turned down an offer to house his team in alternative accommodations away from the former Olympic village.

Jack Cohen, who is general secretary of the Israeli Light Athletics Association, said he did not want any special treatment for the Israeli team.

"We are like any other team, pleased to be here," said Cohen, who as a 12-year-old watched the 1972 Games on television in Tel Aviv. "Of course remembrance is important," he said. "That is one reason why we are here also: To show that we are here again and we are continuing what was stopped 30 years ago. It is very exciting."

Some of the young Israeli athletes clearly felt connected to the events of 1972, though they were born long afterward. Long-distance runner Nili Avramski ran her races with the number "72" written on one hand and "11" on the other.

Ankie Spitzer, the widow of fencing trainer Andre Spitzer, chose not to attend Sunday's ceremony. Spitzer, now a spokesperson for the families of the murdered athletes, reportedly has been struggling for two decades to win compensation from Germany. The compensation claims are based on Germany's poor security at the Olympic village and the bungled rescue attempt.

There was no investigation of the events until 1992, when files were smuggled from Germany to Israel.

Since then, the city of Munich, the state of Bavaria and the German federal government have offered about \$3 million to the families of the athletes, a belated and indirect admission of partial responsibility.

For Roth, the present and future are just as important as remembering the past. Despite the fact that the Israeli team was "not having much success" at the Games, she was cheering them to the last.

Perhaps her cheering paid off. On Saturday, Israeli athlete Alex Averbukh earned a gold medal in the pole vault. □

## Israel, Palestinians trade barbs as Arab terrorist attacks continue

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel's war on Palestinian terrorism is having mixed results, according to Defense Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer.

On Sunday, Ben-Eliezer told the Cabinet that Israel's new policy of demolishing the homes of terrorists is beginning to have a deterrent effect.

Ben-Eliezer told Cabinet minister that he had seen reports of Palestinian parents attempting to stop their children from carrying out terrorist attacks out of fear their homes would be demolished.

Ben-Eliezer said that during the past week, Israeli forces arrested 25 suspected terrorists. During the same period, Israel demolished the homes of 17 terrorists, he added.

Just the same, he said, 14 Israelis were killed and 90 wounded by Palestinian terrorists in the past week.

The night before the Cabinet meeting, an Israeli woman was killed and her husband moderately wounded in a terrorist infiltration of a West Bank settlement.

The terrorist opened fire on residents of Moshav Mekhora in the northern West Bank after cutting through the settlement's electronic security fence. The two children of Yafit Herenstein, 31, and her husband, Arno, were unharmed.

In another attack, a Palestinian gunman opened fire Sunday on a group of Israeli road workers near the Jewish settlement of Dugit in northern Gaza. One Israeli was shot at least five times in the arms and legs, but was reported in stable condition.

Israeli soldiers chased the gunman who ran into a house in the nearby Palestinian area of Beit Lahiya, the army said. The gunman was killed in an exchange of fire with the soldiers.

The gunman was a member of Hamas who left behind a video saying the ambush was revenge for the recent killing of Hamas leader Salah Shehadeh.

The terror was punctuated by angry exchanges by the Israeli and Palestinian leaders.

On Sunday, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told the Cabinet that he did not believe Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's government would take action to halt Palestinian terror attacks.

"Arafat is the head of terrorism, and no one is counting on him," Sharon said.

Last week, Sharon called the Palestinian Authority a "murderous gang" that should be removed from power.

In an Aug. 8 speech to a graduating class at Israel's Defense College, Sharon said, "This gang does not want peace with Israel. The only way to peace is to remove this murderous gang from its political position."

His comments came as a Palestinian delegation was in Washington for discussions with senior Bush administration officials on stabilizing the region and reforming the Palestinian security forces.

Palestinian Authority Cabinet Secretary Ahmed Abdel Rahman said Sharon was trying to interfere with the visit of the high-ranking Palestinian delegation to Washington.

On Sunday, Arafat had a few choice words about Sharon's government.

"This government is looking only for more escalation for its military plans. They are not looking to achieve peace," Arafat said.

Last week, Ben-Eliezer met with Palestinian officials and presented what has come to be known as the "Gaza First" plan.

Under the plan, Israeli soldiers would withdraw from parts of Gaza and the West Bank city of Bethlehem in exchange for Palestinian guarantees that no attacks would be launched from these areas. Further withdrawals would take place if peace holds in these first areas.

On Sunday, Sharon said the positive reaction from some Palestinian officials to the plan was "a trick."

As the two sides traded barbs, Ben-Eliezer came under fire from a group of former Israeli security officials who called on him to keep his pledge to dismantle illegal settler enclaves.

In a letter to Israel's defense minister, former officials from the army, police and Shin Bet security service accused Ben-Eliezer of manipulating the situation to serve his own interests within the Labor Party.

"You cannot send us and our sons to protect lawbreakers," the letter said, according to Israel Radio.

Those signing the letter included former Police Commissioner Alik Ron and Brig. Gens. Dov Tamari and Giora Inbar, the report said. In June, Ben-Eliezer said he intended to uproot some 20 unauthorized settler outposts. Several were subsequently taken down. According to some reports, some of the enclaves were uninhabited and were taken down by settler leaders in the hope of getting government approval for other outposts.

According to Peace Now, which monitors settlement activity in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, some 50 new settlement sites were established without government approval since Sharon came to power in February 2001.

Along with the letter to Ben-Eliezer, a report compiled recently by security officials said the government should force settlers in Hebron to comply with the law.

The report claimed that settlers are acting freely and methodically to "establish facts on the ground" in the West Bank city, the Israeli daily Ha'aretz reported.

It also said settlers are evicting Palestinians from their homes in order to enlarge Jewish holdings in the area. Moreover, settlers are increasing the number of assaults on Palestinians in Hebron, according to the report.

The paper quoted a security source as saying that the problem is not limited to a small minority, but reflects a general approach in the community. A spokesman for the Hebron community said the structures were Jewish-owned and had been taken over by Palestinians in order to carry out attacks against Israelis. □

## Lebanese see 'rouge' over Lauder

JERUSALEM (JTA) — About 100 people protested in Beirut against Estee Lauder, accusing the U.S.-based company of supporting Israel.

Protesters outside the Aishti department store in downtown Beirut waved Lebanese and Palestinian flags last Friday, demanded the store drop Lauder products and told passers-by not to spend money there. "Estee Lauder's presence represents normalization with the Zionist enemy," a banner read. "We don't want pro-Israeli companies here in our city," one protester said. "They can go where they want, to hell, but not here."

The firm's chairman, Ron Lauder, is president of the Jewish National Fund and past chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. □