



# Daily News Bulletin

Vol. 80, No. 157

Thursday, August 22, 2002

85th Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Hebrew U. suspects wanted

Israel has captured a 15-man Hamas cell from eastern Jerusalem suspected of carrying out eight terror attacks, including a July 31 bombing at Hebrew University that killed nine, including five Americans.

The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations is demanding the extradition of the suspects so they can be tried for murder in the United States.

The State Department, however, said it is "too early to talk" about extradition.

According to reports, Mohammed Ouda, who worked as a painter for an Israeli contractor at Hebrew University, planted the bomb. The night before the attack, Ouda, 29, jumped the university fence and hid the bomb in a bag behind a bush, according to reports.

The following day, he entered campus using his identity tag and retrieved the bomb. He planted it inside the Frank Sinatra cafeteria and covered the bag with a newspaper. He then left campus, later setting off the explosive by remote control.

"The fact that one of the murderers was an Arab working in the cafeteria makes it clear that they knew foreign students would be killed," the Conference of Presidents said in a statement.

### Envoy to press for P.A. reform

A U.S. envoy will travel to the Middle East next week to press the Palestinian Authority to create a prime minister's post.

A State Department official told JTA that David Satterfield, deputy assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, is seeking international support to create such a position at meetings in Paris this week of "The Quartet." Satterfield will travel to the Middle East beginning Saturday and is expected to pressure Arab states to help form an international consensus for serious Palestinian Authority reform.

### U.S. to fund Mideast democracy

The State Department is expected to invest millions in promoting democracy in the Middle East. The proposal, reported in The Washington Post, addresses reform in the region, including training for journalists and political activists. The State Department also is expected to review the \$1 billion in U.S. foreign aid to the region. Secretary of State Colin Powell reportedly will unveil the plans as early as next month.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES

### Congresswoman's defeat in primary seen as victory for Jewish activists

By Sharon Samber

WASHINGTON (JTA)— The score is now Jewish activists 2, anti-Israel members of Congress 0.

In an upset this week, a challenger backed by pro-Israel money helped beat a five-term U.S. representative, knocking another anti-Israel voice out of Congress.

This time the state was Georgia and the loser was outspoken Democratic Rep. Cynthia McKinney.

The winner was Denise Majette, a retired state judge who received hundreds of thousands of dollars from Jewish supporters around the country.

Tuesday's race was the second time this summer that Jewish support and Middle East politics influenced the outcome of a primary between two African Americans in a Southern state.

The McKinney race follows a triumph for Jewish involvement in an Alabama congressional race in June.

Jews from around the country opened their pocketbooks for attorney Artur Davis, who defeated Rep. Earl Hilliard in the Democratic primary runoff for Alabama's 7th district. Activists considered Hilliard's voting record in Congress anti-Israel.

The Jewish community's willingness to contribute to Majette's and Davis' campaigns underscores continuing Jewish concern that pro-Israel legislators get elected or stay in office when voters go to the polls Nov. 5.

Jewish activists often have targeted members of Congress they find to be anti-Israel, and have had some success in the past. In 1982, Paul Findley, an anti-Israel congressman from Illinois, was voted out of office after the Jewish community opposed his re-election.

But the Jewish community has been particularly motivated this year because of worry over an Israel under siege and an uptick in international anti-Semitism.

"They made their voice heard unambiguously," said Alan Sechrest, a Democratic strategist.

It's unclear whether this activism will carry over to November, in part because McKinney and Hilliard were the two main candidates targeted by pro-Israel groups.

Morris Amitay, founder of Washington PAC, a pro-Israel group, said Hilliard and McKinney were particularly vulnerable candidates.

The one race that still could see significant Jewish involvement is the New Hampshire Senate race, where the Republican primary pits Rep. John Sununu, the son of the first President Bush's chief of staff, against Sen. Bob Smith.

The Jewish community is backing Smith because he is seen as more pro-Israel and tougher on Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat.

Sununu, who is of Palestinian and Lebanese background, has come under fire for supporting U.S. aid to the Palestinian Authority, though he also has voted for U.S. aid to Israel and has returned campaign contributions from Arab leaders who backed Hamas.

In the Georgia race, political observers said McKinney not only took maverick positions in Congress but failed to give enough reasons for her constituents to support her and gave the Jewish community an opening to oppose her.

McKinney accused the Bush administration of failing to stop the Sept. 11 attacks because, she said, friends of the administration could benefit financially. Her vote

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Palestinian killed in Gaza

Israeli troops tore down abandoned buildings in the Gaza Strip that the army said provided cover for Palestinian gunmen. Palestinians said one person was killed and four injured in the Israeli operation Tuesday night in Khan Yunis.

The army said the operation was in response to the killing earlier in the day of an Israeli soldier by a Palestinian sniper.

### Activists' deportations barred

An Israeli court overturned deportation orders against 48 French activists who intended to visit the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

According to the Israeli daily Ha'aretz, the Interior Ministry had refused the French Arab and Jewish students entry to Israel on the grounds that they intended to stage "provocations" in the territories that would interfere with Israeli army activities.

### Group urges bombing probe

Israeli activists urged the Israel Defense Force to investigate air force commander Maj.-Gen. Dan Halutz for the July attack in the Gaza Strip that killed Hamas' military leader.

The one-ton bomb used in the strike, in a residential neighborhood, killed 16 civilians in addition to Hamas chief Salah Shehade.

According to the Israeli daily Ha'aretz, the far-left group Gush Shalom charges that the commander of the flight squadron, the pilot who dropped the bomb and Halutz must have known that innocent people would be harmed.

Israeli activists also have threatened to take action in the International Criminal Court against Israeli pilots for operations in the West Bank and Gaza, a move Halutz has called "treason."

He recommended that the activists themselves be tried in Israeli courts.

against a pro-Israel resolution in May added to a record of remarks over the years that the pro-Israel community has considered insensitive, even outrageous.

As terror against Israel surged this spring, McKinney was one of only 21 representatives who voted against a resolution that expressed solidarity with Israel, reaffirmed Israel's right to self-defense, supported additional defense assistance for Israel and condemned Palestinian terrorism.

One instance that particularly rankled American Jews was connected to a \$10 million disaster relief donation from a Saudi prince, who sought to tie the Sept. 11 terror attacks to U.S. support for Israel. New York's former mayor, Rudolph Giuliani, rejected the gift because of its political message, but McKinney, who agreed with the Saudi's assessment, asked for the prince's check.

Just last week, several McKinney contributors who were alleged to be supporters of Al-Qaida, Hamas and Hezbollah were named in a \$1 trillion federal lawsuit filed by Sept. 11 victims.

For many, McKinney's father, a state representative who is running for re-election this year, also was a liability. On Monday, Billy McKinney dismissed Majette's candidacy and spelled out the reason for his daughter's tough fight: "J-E-W-S," he said on television, according to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

The race attracted the involvement of members of both the local Jewish community in Georgia and the national Jewish community.

Majette won by about 18,000 votes. Her victory was boosted by a high turnout of Republican primary voters, who under Georgia law are allowed to vote in either primary.

Majette took a strong pro-Israel stance. Though she maintained that the election was about local issues, she also recognized that it had national significance, and she made no apologies for accepting the out-of-state contributions.

Several pro-Israel groups contributed to Majette's campaign, and a number of individuals who donated in recent months had Jewish-sounding surnames.

McKinney's campaign, by contrast, showed a number of donations from individuals with Arab- or Muslim-sounding surnames, including many from outside McKinney's district. Her campaign also received contributions from Muslim advocacy groups. The Council on American-Islamic Relations asked its members to support McKinney because she supports a Palestinian state and is against U.S. aid to Israel.

Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan campaigned for McKinney, and Rabbi Michael Lerner expressed personal support for her.

Jewish leaders were outraged by the position of Lerner, who publishes Tikkun magazine. One Jewish official called Lerner's affiliation with radical anti-Israel groups "an outrage."

Rabbi Marc Schneier, president of the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding, said, "Farrakhan's involvement was just as offensive as Lerner's involvement."

Lerner told JTA that support from Farrakhan and Arab groups should not preclude Jews from supporting McKinney. Lerner defended McKinney's statements on Israel as consistent with the positions of the Israeli peace movement, which he said calls for "an end to the occupation" of Palestinian areas.

Her defeat will have a "chilling effect" on other members of Congress who criticize Israeli policy, Lerner said. He added that he is working to form a progressive, pro-Israel alternative to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the main pro-Israel lobbying group in Washington.

"We want to make it safe for congressional representatives to articulate criticism of" Israeli Prime Minister "Ariel Sharon and his policies without being identified as anti-Israel," Lerner said.

AIPAC, which does not endorse individual candidates, said, "Our alliance is with the Israeli people who democratically elect their government."

As for black-Jewish dealings on Capitol Hill, some said the Davis-Hilliard race had increased tensions between Jewish and black members of the U.S. House of Representatives, but Schneier said it was wrong to view the McKinney-Majette race as a black-Jewish issue.

Members of the Congressional Black Caucus might be upset initially, but there will be "no long-term negative impact on black-Jewish relations," he predicted. □



## 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

### Group: End Europe's aid to P.A.

A think tank in the United States is urging the European Union to halt its funding to the Palestinian Authority.

A report by the Heritage Foundation calls on the Bush administration to press for an independent investigation into whether the E.U. money is being used to fund terrorism. The European Union gave the Palestinian Authority an estimated \$3.4 billion between 1994 and 2000, and continues to give the P.A. an average of \$10 million a month.

The release of the report came before an international task force was slated to meet in Paris on Thursday to consider ways to reform the Palestinian Authority. E.U. officials who investigated the matter earlier this year said they could find no hard evidence that their aid was being used to fund terrorism.

But some pro-Israel advocates say the European aid frees up other P.A. money for terror.

### Interfaith group slams Saudis

An interfaith pro-Israel group blasted Saudi Arabia's claim that evangelical Christians determine U.S. Middle East policy.

Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein, chairman of the Stand for Israel campaign, a project of the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, urged the Saudis to repudiate a recent Saudi newspaper attack charging that Christian fundamentalism is "more dangerous" than other religious "extremism, especially if it controls the policy of the United States."

Eckstein said evangelicals simply have exercised their civic rights and "made their voices heard" on foreign policy. Evangelical Christians generally strongly support Israel and believe the Jewish state's survival is necessary for the return of Jesus.

### Tension after Brooklyn accident

A car accident in Brooklyn involving a Chasidic driver and a young black girl occurred less than a mile from the site of the accident that sparked the 1991 Crown Heights riots.

Several African Americans reportedly protected the driver, who wanted to flee the scene, from a crowd of people who gathered after Tuesday's night incident.

The injured 3-year-old remains in critical condition. Eleven years ago, a car accident that killed a young black child in Crown Heights touched off riots that led to the death of a 29-year-old yeshiva student.

### Study: Young Germans not Nazis

Fewer young Germans are joining extremist groups. The decrease comes as young Germans are showing decreased interest in politics more generally, says Klaus Hurrelman, who conducted a recent survey of 2,500 Germans aged 12 to 25.

## Tourists hindering relief work in Prague, Jewish official says

By Magnus Bennett

PRAGUE (JTA) — Curious tourists are interfering with repair work at Jewish historical sites damaged by recent floods, according to a Prague Jewish official.

Sylvie Wittmann, the co-founder of Prague's liberal Jewish community, told JTA that many tourists were trying to enter flood-damaged synagogues and other Jewish sites to see the damage.

"Some tourists do not understand at all what has happened and want to have a look inside at any cost," said Wittmann, who also runs a tour guide service in Prague and historically Jewish towns.

In some cases, she claimed, tourists have "physically harassed" guards watching over Jewish properties in Maiselova Street, where the Prague Jewish community's headquarters is located.

The flooding, Europe's worst in more than 100 years, caused extensive damage throughout Central Europe.

Czech Jewish leaders have launched an international appeal for aid after the floods caused an estimated \$4 million in damage to Jewish holy sites.

Wittmann said she had received requests to visit Terezin, the site of a large Nazi transit camp during World War II, which was seriously flooded.

"I told one man that I would give him a snorkel, some scuba-diving equipment and a rubber boat and take him to Terezin," she said. "He just didn't understand how serious the flooding was."

Wittmann said Israelis were the only tourists who respected requests not to interfere with the sites.

"They seem to understand, perhaps because they are used to disasters," she said.

Wittmann also was critical of Prague's tourist agencies for doing little to help with the relief work.

"Tourist agencies in the city make millions from the Jewish Quarter, but none of them have done anything to help," she said.

Wittmann has temporarily closed her business and is directing her staff in flood relief efforts. Wittmann's team was focusing Wednesday on moving Jewish-related archives from the Small Fortress in Terezin, which served as a Nazi prison during WWII and was engulfed in flood waters.

Leo Pavlat, director of the Prague Jewish Museum, which administers many of Prague's synagogues, said there may have been isolated cases of tourists trying to look inside Jewish properties, but said he didn't consider it a problem.

Pavlat praised dozens of volunteers, many of whom are not members of the Jewish community, for helping to clean and dry out buildings hit by the floods.

"There is a group of young people from Jihlava, about 100 miles from Prague, who arrived with cleaning materials to help in the clean-up operation," Pavlat said. "When I asked why they had come all this way, they said it was because they felt we needed them."

Among the sites hardest hit was the Pinkas Synagogue, which sustained damage to its foundations and may be closed for several months.

The Spanish, Klausen and Maisel synagogues also were affected but should reopen earlier than the Pinkas. The Old-New Synagogue also took in water, but it suffered less damage because the 13th-century shul is built on rock.

The Jewish Museum's administrative building also was badly flooded, and efforts continue to clean out the basement and remove soaked furnishings. All of the museum's permanent exhibitions, spread across several synagogues, were removed and are being kept well above water level.

All exhibitions will be closed for at least a month.

The Jewish community and the Jewish Museum have established a Web site with information in English about flood damage to historical sites.

The site, at [www.jewishpragueflood.cz](http://www.jewishpragueflood.cz), includes photographs of flooded synagogue interiors and details of a fund launched to offset damage costs. □

## Jewish groups asked to adopt new strategy for pro-Israel P.R.

By Joe Berkofsky

NEW YORK (JTA) — American Jewish leaders are being asked to follow the Ten Commandments.

It's not the biblical version, but a communications strategy of that name by a group of major Washington political consultants behind a million-dollar-plus public relations campaign to build American public support for Israel.

Among the commandments in the Israel P.R. Campaign: Stress your commitment to peace; draw parallels between Israel and America; don't attack Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat; and distinguish between the suffering Palestinian people and their government.

The question is, can U.S. Jews keep this new faith?

Led by Democratic consultant Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi, Democratic pollster Stanley Greenberg and Republican strategist Frank Luntz, the campaign arises from a series of polls showing U.S. support for Israel eroding as Americans increasingly blame both sides equally for the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Public opinion surveys that Greenberg carried out in July found that American viewers, in fact, react negatively to many of Israel's media messages.

When President Bush and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld are blunt and unambiguous, Americans consider it candid, Luntz wrote in a private memo that has circulated among Jewish groups.

But when Israelis take an in-your-face stance, Americans view their foreign accents and occasionally pugnacious debating style as confrontational.

Research also showed that Americans — who just “want the rest of the world to get along” — grew more sympathetic when spokespeople focused on the values Israel shares with America, its deep desire for peace and its sympathy for the Palestinian plight, Greenberg and Luntz said.

At the heart of the pro-Israel P.R. campaign are a series of national TV ads slated to appear in early September on CNN, Fox News and MSNBC.

The Washington insiders also are bringing their message to major U.S. Jewish organizations and top Israeli officials, arguing that it is crucial to change the way they make Israel's case.

So far, the response is generally encouraging. Many U.S. Jewish groups are embracing the P.R. effort as a much-needed antidote to Israel's ailing image.

After 18 months of being bombarded by “negative” media coverage of Israel, Americans are simply confused, said Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

“The analogy is Northern Ireland: If you ask most Americans where they stand, they don't know,” Hoenlein said. “They just want to see an end to the killings.”

Hoenlein is among dozens of American Jewish leaders and Israeli officials who have attended workshops by Luntz and Greenberg. “It's important to assert the positive,” Hoenlein added. “You don't gain anything by saying what Arafat is, because people know. That wasn't the case two years ago.”

But it remains to be seen whether Jewish groups will unite around the softer message. In fact, few Jewish leaders say that's likely to happen.

“The Jewish community speaks in many voices,” said Gail Hyman, senior vice president of marketing and public affairs at the United Jewish Communities.

But, she added, “It's important to get our message coordinated, if not exactly using the same set of words.”

UJC is among the principal backers of the P.R. campaign, which has been led by the American Jewish Committee. Also involved is a group of Silicon Valley high-tech entrepreneurs called Israel 21C.

UJC will conduct leadership and advocacy training seminars for its members, to help spread the new strategy around the country, Hyman said.

Another group spreading the word on a grass-roots level is Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life.

Richard Joel, president of Hillel, said the campaign is especially timely on campus.

Surveys show that college students are largely undecided about the Mideast conflict but anti-Israel demonstrations are becoming increasingly frequent.

“This is a generation that draws moral relativism,” Joel said.

“We have to move from being confrontational to being persuasive, at a time of unbelievable ignorance” about the Mideast.

David Harris, executive director of the AJCommittee, welcomed the effort, saying Israel's case until now “hasn't been made effectively.”

Jewish groups must put this plan into effect and “get on message” about the Mideast conflict, he said.

But reactions to the message differed, not surprisingly, along political fault lines.

Mark Rosenblum, founder and policy director of Americans for Peace Now, said Israel has been “beaten up unfairly in the media and in the international community” and needs strong *hasbarah*, the Hebrew term for public relations.

Still, good P.R. can't compensate for the policies of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's government, which has only pursued military options while building Jewish settlements in the territories, Rosenblum said.

“If you're going to sell a more uplifting picture of Israel and you're also going to sell hope, it's not only a problem of Arafatocracy, but the Sharon government hasn't offered a vision of hope,” he said.

Helen Freedman, executive director of Americans for a Safe Israel, disagreed. The advice to stress positive and hopeful messages simply “refuses to face the reality” of Mideast politics and panders to “Madison Avenue” image-making, she said.

“What confuses people are all the mixed messages coming out of Israel,” led by a unity government that includes not just more hawkish ministers from Sharon's Likud and the National Religious Party, but Labor Party leaders such as Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Defense Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, whom Freedman called “traitors” for urging peace talks amid terrorism.

Israel's message, she said, should be not conciliatory but forceful.

“Israeli spokesmen should speak the truth, and they should say it over and over again: Arafat and all the terrorists in the area have proven themselves to be nothing but that — terrorists — and we have to get them before they get us,” Freedman said.

Perhaps, it appears, even the Ten Commandments won't be enough to get all the American Jewish groups on the same P.R. page. □