



# Daily News Bulletin

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## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Bomb kills Palestinian woman

A Palestinian woman was killed and her son wounded when a bomb exploded in the West Bank.

Thursday's explosion occurred at a West Bank chicken farm owned by an Islamic Jihad fugitive, Palestinian officials said.

Also, Israeli troops arrested a Hamas leader in the West Bank town of Kalkilya on Wednesday night. Soldiers also captured two Hamas members on Thursday who were allegedly planning to carry out a terrorist attack.

In other incidents, Israeli troops launched an operation in a Gaza refugee camp overnight that killed a Palestinian man and demolished two homes, Ha'aretz reported.

Israel said the targets were sites from where Israeli troops had come under fire.

### Extremist Jewish Web site probed

French prosecutors launched a probe of an Internet site that encourages readers to attack French Jewish celebrities it considers anti-Israel.

There are both Jews and non-Jews on the list, and Jews are identified with a Star of David next to their name.

"Not only do they deserve to be boycotted, but we encourage you, if you ever cross their path, to tell them verbally or even physically what you think of them," the site says of the Jews on the list.

### Jerusalem plans 9/11 memorial

The city of Jerusalem plans to build a memorial for victims of the Sept. 11 attack on the World Trade Center.

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg and former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani may fly in for a cornerstone-laying ceremony, Jerusalem city officials said this week.

The memorial will be installed near the western entrance to the capital.

It will be cast in bronze and inscribed with the names of the victims of the Twin Towers attack.

A block from "Ground Zero" also will be incorporated in the memorial, the Jerusalem Post newspaper reported.

The Jewish National Fund received a \$500,000 donation for construction of the memorial, the paper said.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES

### Capture of Jerusalem terrorists shocks Israel, raises questions

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The recent capture of a Hamas cell believed responsible for a series of devastating terrorist attacks was a major coup for Israel's security forces — but it underscored the challenge Israel faces in fighting terrorism when the perpetrators may come from within.

Israelis reacted with shock and consternation to the fact that the four cell members from eastern Jerusalem used their Israeli identity cards, places of employment and freedom of movement to carry out some of the most devastating attacks in the Palestinian intifada, killing 35 people and wounded dozens.

Among the attacks attributed to the cell were the July 31 bombing at Hebrew University that killed nine people, including five Americans.

The cell also is believed to have carried out the March suicide bombing at Jerusalem's Moment Café and a suicide bombing at a Rishon le-Zion pool hall in May.

The cell also tried, on two occasions to derail Israeli trains by planting bombs on the tracks near Lod. They also planted two bombs on fuel tankers, one of which blew up beneath a tanker at the country's largest depot, Pi Gllilot.

The Pi Gllilot attack, which because of a series of coincidences caused no injuries, raised Israeli fears of a Palestinian "mega-terror" attack that could cause thousands of casualties.

Deputy Public Security Minister Gideon Ezra said the capture of eastern Jerusalem residents at the core of a terrorist cell completely shattered the left's claim that terrorists were driven by economic hardship, hunger and poverty.

"These people had it made from every aspect," Ezra wrote in the Israeli daily Ma'ariv. "They did not live under closure or blockade. They enjoyed a good living, freedom of movement throughout the country. Despite this, they turned murder into an industry that coldly killed 35 Israelis and was always looking for the next murderous attack.

"All of this proves that hardship" is not "what pushes the Palestinian murderers, but vast hate, cultivated by religious leaders and the Palestinian Authority," Ezra wrote.

Interior Minister Eli Yishai said he was taking steps to revoke the permanent residency status of the four Jerusalemites.

As a first step, Yishai asked the State Attorney's Office and the Shin Bet security service to provide him with material showing that the four had been involved in terrorist activities. Yishai already has begun proceedings to revoke the citizenship of two Israeli Arabs suspected of terrorist activity.

The interior minister, who has been criticized for what some considered an extreme move, said it is the only way to deter terrorists who are Israelis or live in Israel from exploiting their status to harm the state.

"We are in the midst of a war, and we are obliged to protect ourselves," Yishai said Thursday.

Unlike Israeli Arabs, residents of eastern Jerusalem are not Israeli citizens. They can vote in Jerusalem municipal elections — though most elect not to, so as not to legitimize Israeli rule, and because of threats from Palestinian leaders — but they cannot vote in elections for the Knesset.

Since the signing of the 1993 Oslo accords, they can vote in Palestinian elections. Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, who has taken pride in the fact that eastern

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Kollek: Jerusalem must be split

Jerusalem should be divided, former Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek said.

The longtime mayor of the city said the 200,000 Palestinian Arabs living in eastern Jerusalem should not be under Israel's jurisdiction and should be given some control over holy sites in the city, including the disputed Temple Mount.

Kollek's comments came after the arrests of four eastern Jerusalem residents in connection with several terror attacks during the past year, including last month's bombing at Hebrew University.

### Greek Orthodox bishop arrested

Israeli police arrested a Greek Orthodox bishop on charges that he expressed support for terrorist organizations and illegally entered Lebanon and Syria.

Atallah Hanna is suspected of praising suicide bombers and attempting to meet with Hezbollah leader Sheik Hasran Nasrallah.

### Air Force chief defends bombing

The leader of Israel's air force defended last month's bombing of a Hamas military leader that also killed 15 civilians.

Maj. Gen. Dan Halutz said Wednesday that the July 23 attack on Salah Shehada was both "militarily and morally" proper. Halutz said it is legitimate to bomb a terrorist even if innocent bystanders are hurt.

### Ethiopian children celebrate

Sixty Ethiopian immigrants to Israel celebrated a group Bar and Bat Mitzvah. The children, who live in absorption centers in northern Israel, received gifts of new clothes and religious items for Monday's ceremony.

The Jewish Agency for Israel and the Upper Galilee Regional Council organized the event.

Jerusalem residents for the most part have refrained from violent activity during the intifada, expressed shock at the existence of the cell.

"This is something I feared," Olmert said.

In addition to the four eastern Jerusalem residents, Israeli security forces arrested a cell member near Ramallah.

Security forces said the cell's commanders located in Ramallah received their instructions from Damascus. Israeli security forces said the cell apparently was planning "mega-attacks" against Israel.

The men were captured Saturday night by Israeli security forces, who thwarted an attempt to carry out an attack in central Israel. On Tuesday, Israeli sappers recovered the bomb the cell had intended to use in the attack, which they had hidden near the entrance to Jerusalem.

At least eight major attacks were attributed to the group. They include the July 31 bombing at Hebrew University's Frank Sinatra cafeteria. Nine people were killed, among them five Americans, and over 80 were wounded.

According to reports, one cell member jumped the fence of the university the night before the attack and hid the bomb behind a bush.

The next day, Mohammed Oudeh, who worked as a painter for a contractor doing renovations on the campus, showed up for work.

Oudeh picked up the bomb from its hiding place, took it to the cafeteria, put it in on a table and covered it with a newspaper. He then left the campus and detonated the bomb by remote control from a cell phone. The day after the attack, Oudeh reported to work to repaint the scorched walls of the cafeteria.

A French foreign student wounded in the cafeteria bombing said he felt only slightly relieved by the capture of the cell responsible for the attack.

"If I understand the news correctly, it is only the tip of the iceberg. It is scary that there are terrorist cells prepared to do everything to hurt us," the daily Ma'ariv quoted him as saying.

American Jewish organizations demanded that the cell members be extradited to the United States to face trial.

The cell is also allegedly responsible for several other attacks, including:

- The May 23 attempted attack at Israel's central fuel depot. The cell planned to set off a bomb hidden beneath a fuel tanker, igniting the fuel reserves at Pi Gliot, in a densely populated area on the northern outskirts of Tel Aviv. The bomb exploded, but failed to ignite the tanker.

- The May 7 suicide bombing at a Rishon le-Zion pool hall. Fifteen people were killed and 45 wounded in the attack. One of the cell members, Wissam Abassi, worked in the Rishon le-Zion industrial zone as a glazier and knew the pool hall was crowded and unguarded at night.

- The March 9 suicide bombing at the Moment Café in Jerusalem. Eleven people were killed and some 60 wounded. Cell members chose the location and drove the suicide bomber to the site.

- The cell also is believed responsible for two attempts to derail passenger trains by planting bombs on the tracks. On June 30, four people were wounded when a bomb planted on the tracks near Lod, in central Israel, exploded.

According to security forces, all of the cell members from eastern Jerusalem used their jobs and freedom of movement to gather information to carry out the terrorist attacks.

The four eastern Jerusalem cell members were identified as:

- Wa'al Kassem, 31, commander of the cell. A resident of the Ras al-Amud neighborhood, he is married and has four children.

Kassem served as the liaison between the command center in Ramallah and the cell, officials said. He worked in renovations and provided shuttle services in his car.

- Oudeh, 29. A resident of the Silwan neighborhood of Jerusalem who worked as a painter for an Israeli contractor at Hebrew University. He is married and has two children.

Wissam Abassi, 25. The Silwan resident worked as a glazier in Rishon le-Zion, is married and has one child.

- Ala'a Abassi, 30, a Silwan resident. He worked as an air-conditioning technician for an Israeli company, is married and has two children. □



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## JEWISH WORLD

### School seeks professor's ouster

A Florida university is asking a court whether it legally can fire a professor accused of raising funds for a Palestinian terrorist group.

The University of South Florida is seeking to oust tenured professor Sami Al-Arian for public comments he has made, and fund raising that he is accused of doing for Islamic Jihad.

However, the university is concerned the move might violate Al-Arian's freedom of speech.

Speaking last Friday, Al-Arian said a court had found him not to be related to terrorist groups' actions, and said the university should abide by the ruling.

On Thursday, Florida Gov. Jeb Bush said he agrees with the decision to try to fire Al-Arian, saying "the guy has ties to people who want to undermine the United States of America."

Al-Arian's brother-in-law, Mazen Al-Najjar, reportedly is being deported this week from the United States because of alleged terrorist ties.

### Is Libya bankrolling Iraqi nukes?

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said Libya is funding Iraq's nuclear weapons efforts, Sen. Robert Torricelli (D-N.J.) told the New Jersey Jewish News. Torricelli met with Sharon on a three-day fact-finding tour of Israel.

He said Sharon vowed that, unlike during the 1991 Gulf War Israel would retaliate if Iraq strikes the Jewish state in response to a U.S.-led campaign to unseat Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Sharon also said Libya is sharing nuclear weapons technology with Iraq, according to Torricelli.

### Poll: Israelis prefer visitors

Israelis prefer that Diaspora Jews visit Israel rather than give money or advocate for the Jewish state, a survey revealed.

A June survey by the Israeli polling firm Telesaker, which was commissioned by the Birthright Israel program, revealed that 45 percent of Israelis preferred visits, 27 percent preferred lobbying and 22 percent preferred donations.

### Flood prompts kosher food gift

Vienna's Jewish community has given its Prague counterparts nearly 200 pounds of kosher meat after Czech supplies were destroyed by recent flooding.

Prague Jewish leader Tomas Jelinek expressed his thanks to the Austrian community.

Jelinek said the batch of chicken, meat and cheese would keep a home for Holocaust survivors supplied for two weeks.

Prague is also being supplied with canned food from Israeli sources.

## AROUND THE JEWISH WORLD

### Census of Sao Paulo Jews may help community plan better

By Marcus Moraes

RIO DE JANEIRO (JTA) — New census data on Sao Paulo Jews may help Brazil's largest and most influential Jewish community plan more effectively.

Some 60,000 Jews live in Sao Paulo State, which has an overall population of 36 million, according to data released by the Sao Paulo State Jewish Federation. That's fully one-third more than the most recent Brazilian government figures, from 2000, that showed only 44,000 Jews in Sao Paulo.

Brazil's population of 170 million includes 120,000 Jews, according to the survey. Half are in Sao Paulo state, another 40,000 in Rio de Janeiro State, up to 15,000 in Porto Alegre and 5,000 in other parts of the country.

The census was a 20-month project sponsored primarily by the Albert Einstein Israelite Hospital in Sao Paulo.

Hebrew University demographer Sergio Della Pergola, who served as a consultant to the survey, called it "the most complete and updated Jewish counting ever performed in Latin America."

According to the census, 63 percent of Sao Paulo's Jews say they go to synagogue "only on High Holidays and for social events," while 13 percent say they "never" go to synagogue. Another 14 percent go to synagogue weekly, and 3 percent go every day.

"The biggest challenge for the Jews of Sao Paulo is to keep their Jewish identity. A major effort must be made, mainly toward the new generations. The percentage of Jewish students who study in Jewish schools is low," said Israel's consul general in Sao Paulo, Medad Medina.

"Among all the Jewish communities in Latin America, Sao Paulo can be considered a major reference because of its size and the importance of several of its members," he added. "However, compared to the rest of the Diaspora, it could be more active."

The community is closely guarding the results of the census, releasing few details to the media.

"We have been extremely cautious regarding all this surveyed data," said Alberto Milkewitz, the federation's institutional director. "We must be sensible when releasing any kind of information due to security and economic matters" — a euphemism for fears that Jews will be targeted for robbery or kidnapping because they are considered wealthy.

One problem the surveyors faced was people's fear of being counted.

"Some 200 people brought up the fact that the Judenrat" — Jewish councils established by the Nazis in countries they occupied — "held this type of information, which ended up being misused," Milkewitz said.

Some prefer to call the Sao Paulo survey a counting rather than a census. It was not done door to door, but by telephone and computer.

The methodology reduced expenses in half, said Ricardo Oliveira, financial director of the Sao Paulo State Jewish Federation and general coordinator of the census.

Ultimately, the poll-takers relied on respondents' self-definition as Jews to arrive at the final figure of 60,000, Oliveira said.

Despite his involvement in the project, Della Pergola expressed some skepticism about the figures. "I would rather be a pessimist," he said. "There are certain problems with validating the information collected, including avoiding double counts of the same households."

But, he added, "Overall, the federation data seem to me to correspond quite well with those of the census. This at least provides a sort of control."

According to the most recent statistics from the Jewish Agency for Israel in Sao Paulo, some 250 Brazilians make aliyah per year.

"At least for the last 30 years, the Brazilian Jewish community has been completely pro-Israel but not as strongly Zionist as the Argentines, for example," said Nestor Kirchuk, Sao Paulo emissary of the Jewish Agency for Israel. "Brazilian Jews, like American Jews, feel more rooted to their country of birth." □

BEHIND THE HEADLINES**Genesis of a P.R. campaign: using political savvy for Mideast conflict***By Matthew E. Berger*

WASHINGTON (JTA) — As a political consultant for both overseas elections and U.S. Democratic candidates, Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi has a pretty keen eye for an image problem.

On maternity leave in 2000, as her colleagues worked on the U.S. presidential election and the ensuing vote recount in Florida, Mizrahi noticed that Israel was not being perceived positively in the United States. Israel continued to project a more positive image than the Palestinian Authority, but it seemed to Mizrahi that Israel was being seen as opposed to Middle East peace and as an instigator, not a victim, of the region's violence.

Almost two years later, after developing a team of Jewish political consultants and pollsters, Mizrahi has formulated a thorough message strategy to change American perceptions of Israel. The strategy has been circulating for the past month among American Jewish leaders and Israeli officials.

Started with \$50,000 of her family's foundation money, the Israel P.R. Campaign has begun seeking support from Jewish groups to create television ads geared toward "opinion elites" nationwide.

Some say Mizrahi's project has been able to do what other groups only dreamed about — create a formal strategy to enhance American perceptions of Israel. The strategy is focused on a new set of television ads, which are expected to launch early next month, and training for Israeli and U.S. Jewish spokespeople.

Gathering the information and getting Jewish communal leaders on board has been a bit of a struggle, Mizrahi says.

In the early months of the intifada, Mizrahi found herself complaining to family, friends and Jewish leaders about Israel's negative image. Others, however, were focused on more practical needs such as bulletproof ambulances and security zones around senior citizen centers.

"A lot of people feel that image is fluff, like plastic surgery," she said. But given her experience on political and advocacy campaigns, Mizrahi said she understood that negative views could result in larger problems, such as anti-Israel policies from the new White House.

For their part, Jewish leaders say they weren't ignoring Mizrahi's ideas, but that she wasn't saying anything significantly different from others who also were theorizing about how to paint Israel in a better light.

Some say they wondered whether Mizrahi was motivated primarily by self-promotion or by real concern for Israel.

But many groups now say Mizrahi has proved to be one of the first to develop a thorough plan to improve Israel's image, and they are eager to listen.

Unable to get funding for her project last spring, Mizrahi turned to the one place she knew she could get the resources — her own political strategy company and the charitable trust she and her husband have established. She supplemented that with money from other private family foundations whose representatives she met at a conference of the Jewish Funders Network.

She recruited some of the biggest campaign names in Washington: Frank Luntz, a Republican strategist who has worked for

former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu; Neil Newhouse, a Republican pollster for Public Opinion Strategies; and Stanley Greenberg, President Clinton's former pollster who worked extensively with former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak.

"I wanted it to be the best and the brightest," Mizrahi said.

While some of the consultants and pollsters are ideological opposites, they have joined in the past to work for associations and corporations. But this was different, they said.

"You're dealing with a country under siege and you're trying to help them. There are much bigger consequences than your standard political campaign," said Patrick Lanne, research director for Public Opinion Strategies, who ran some of the focus groups for the Israel P.R. Campaign.

The initial strategy was to affect the perception of Washington elites, and Mizrahi used the research data to create television ads in Washington that were funded by defense organizations such as the Center for Security Policy.

These ads ran on Washington-area cable networks throughout the spring and summer, at a cost of \$30,000 a week.

The second round of polling, launched in early summer, looked at the general American population, with specific emphasis on American Jews, college students, African-Americans and "opinion elites."

The new results have been used to formulate talking points for both American and Israeli spokespeople, with Mizrahi's team coaching spokespeople in both countries on effective media strategies. They also will be used to formulate a new series of ads that will air nationwide starting in September. For this, Mizrahi has garnered support from prominent Jewish groups such as the American Jewish Committee.

She also hopes Hillel and other Jewish groups will use her plan to craft new message campaigns. Continuity in the message is crucial, she believes, because the main points may not have enough critical mass to get across if every Jewish group has a separate message.

Jewish groups say it's easier to join the P.R. campaign now that they have seen Mizrahi's polling data. But while there is much anticipation for the ad campaign, there also is skepticism that it will really affect public opinion.

Mizrahi says she believes she was able to put together a comprehensive plan — and beat many Jewish organizations to the punch — because she followed the successful formula of some of her past political campaigns, while Jewish groups were venturing into unfamiliar waters.

This time, however, she is working for a patron closer to home. "My son is the client," says Mizrahi, who is pregnant with her second child. "When a Jew is not safe to walk in Jerusalem, give it 20 years and no Jew will be safe to walk the earth."

She hopes to expand the campaign to Europe, trying to tackle the roots of anti-Semitism and anti-Israel bias there.

Her political consulting business has suffered because of her new activism, Mizrahi says, as she has not taken on many new clients. And though she is looking for someone to take over the project, she also is starting to realize that she may be in this for the long haul.

"There is no Nov. 6," says Mizrahi, referring to the day after Election Day, when the consultant's work normally is finished. "There is no date where you win or lose, and I hate that. I like to win and I like to be done." □