



# Daily News Bulletin

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85th Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Israeli forces raid Gaza

Israeli forces staged a raid on Wednesday to thwart a suspected arms smuggling operation, blowing up at least one container off the Gaza coast.

The raid, in which Israel took control of a large stretch of beach, came after Palestinian mortar fire reportedly blew the roof off a nursery school in the Gaza Strip settlement of Gush Katif late Tuesday night.

Citing both the suspected shipment and the school attack, Israeli Defense Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer canceled a security meeting with the Palestinian Authority's interior minister, Abdel Razek Yehiyeh.

### Israeli shipment bound for Iran?

German police stopped a shipment of Israeli military equipment thought to be headed for Iran. The shipment, intercepted by German customs officials this week in Hamburg, apparently contained rubber treads for armored personnel carriers.

Israeli officials said the shipment had received authorization to go to Thailand, but German authorities told Israeli television that a German company had bought the equipment intending to ship it to Iran, according to Ha'aretz.

It is unclear if the Israeli company, P.A.D., knew the equipment's ultimate destination.

### 'Quartet' to meet in New York

The "Quartet" of countries trying to mediate an end to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict will meet in New York next month.

Representatives of the United Nations, European Union and Russia will join U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell on Sept. 16.

Quartet representatives recently debated the idea of creating a prime minister's position in the Palestinian Authority, seen as a way to circumvent P.A. President Yasser Arafat.

### Petition filed on 'Who is a Jew'

Israel's Interior Ministry refuses to grant services such as identity cards to Israeli citizens that it believes are not truly Jewish, according to a petition recently filed before Israel's High Court of Justice.

The petition was filed by a lawyer for an Ethiopian woman who says the ministry refused to give her an identity card and only extended her passport for one year, instead of the normal five years.

## THE DEBATE ON CAMPUS

### Jewish groups coordinate efforts to help students 'take back campus'

By Rachel Pomerance

NEW YORK (JTA) — With pro-Palestinian activists heating up college campuses around the country, nearly every Jewish organization, it seems, is going back to school.

And they are hitting the books with new strategies to help map out a pro-Israel agenda as classes begin.

A new body has been created, the Israel on Campus Coalition, in an effort to coordinate the various efforts and maximize the impact on students.

The group was put together by Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life and the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, which is funding several student programs and has invested a quarter of a million dollars to fund this project.

It hired Wayne Firestone, former director of the Israel office of the Anti-Defamation League, as its director.

Based in Washington, the Israel on Campus Coalition will act as an information-sharing and planning agency for more than 20 Jewish organizations on campus, and a central clearinghouse for students and professionals.

Pro-Israel professionals from the elite consulting firm, McKinsey & Company, offered pro bono services to assess the key lessons learned from the activities of the past year and the top priorities of each organization for the coming year.

In a document the company submitted to the Israel on Campus Coalition, it stated that the primary goal for this year should be to "take back the campus" by influencing public opinion through lectures, the Internet and coalitions.

It says that to affect public opinion on the campuses, the message should be to "make the case for Israel proactively: Don't sound defensive about Israel, or argue about specific facts — instead, reframe the debate to emphasize Israel's long history of democracy, peace and resistance to terror."

"There's never been a central location" for students or professionals on Jewish campus life, said Lisa Eisen, a program director of the Schusterman Foundation and chair of the new coalition's steering committee.

That committee is comprised of representatives of Hillel, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the United Jewish Communities, the Jewish Council of Public Affairs and a rotating group of students and members from other participating Jewish organizations.

"They're bombarded on campus by a number of different organizations," Eisen said. The coalition will gather information from each organization, such as speakers bureaus and major events on campus, to create a "one-stop shop" for students and professionals.

Among the various initiatives that groups have taken with students:

- Hillel bolstered its Israel programming with a major advocacy trip for 400 students to Israel this summer and continuing education for the participants, the establishment of a Campus Israel Affairs department last fall, and expansion of its speaker series begun last spring, originally funded by UJC, with a new grant from the Skirball Foundation.

- The American Israel Public Affairs Committee has tripled the size of its budget and staffing for its student program. The pro-Israel lobby has traditionally worked with a pro-Israel group and its student head on every campus. This year, it is targeting 60 campuses, considered high-profile universities that produce large numbers of political

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### 2 Israeli Arabs arrested

Israel arrested two Israeli Arabs on charges they drove a suicide bomber to the site of an attack. The two Nazareth residents allegedly drove the bomber to the Umm el-Fahm junction on Aug. 5 before the explosion took place.

The men claim they did not know the bomber's intentions when they picked him up, and tried to dissuade him when they learned of his plan. One of the two fled the car, and the other was injured when the bomber detonated his bomb, killing only himself.

### Israel won't allow meeting

Israel rejected a request by Palestinian lawmakers to meet next month in Ramallah under the auspices of Yasser Arafat.

"No Palestinian Cabinet headed or directed by Arafat will be recognized or accepted by the State of Israel," said a statement from the office of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

### U.K. to limit military exports

Britain will stop some military exports to the Jewish state, officials told the Israeli government.

The British government made the decision following criticism from within Prime Minister Tony Blair's own Labor Party about concern that Israeli F-16s used to attack the West Bank and Gaza Strip contained British parts, the Daily Mirror reported.

### Palestinian emigration up

Emigration from the West Bank and Gaza Strip is up by 50 percent this year, Palestinian officials said. Some 80,000 Palestinians have left the territories since the beginning of 2002, according to the Jerusalem Post. The official told the paper that Jordan, which already has a substantial Palestinian population, is trying to limit the number of Palestinians seeking refuge from violence and poverty.



## Daily News Bulletin

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leaders or ones that are particularly inflammatory. And it is working with four activists per campus, each with distinct tasks, who will advise their peers at other schools.

Nearly 250 leaders from those campuses attended AIPAC's three-day pro-Israel advocacy training in Washington in July where they were briefed by top political analysts, members of congress, diplomats and a variety of Jewish organizational heads.

- Caravan for Democracy was launched by the Jewish National Fund, Media Watch International and the Hadassah-sponsored Hamagshimim in January 2002 to showcase Israel's democratic values. The group brought pro-Israel speakers to 29 campuses last year to speak to journalism students and the general population, and aims to visit 50 this year.

Earlier this month, Caravan took 13 students on a two-week training seminar in Israel. Participants were Caravan activists last year, but they also had to be students who agreed to run for a leadership position on campus. While there, the students visited journalists, politicians and terror victims, and learned how to write letters to the editor or organize on campus.

- The American Jewish Committee has circulated a letter sponsored by presidents and former presidents of major universities calling for an intimidation-free campus. Just more than a week into its circulation, more than 250 university presidents have signed the statement.

- Alpha Epsilon Pi Fraternity has created an Israel advocacy program for the first time. At its international convention this month, pro-Israel speakers briefed the 300 delegates, and 50 delegates trained intensively with Jewish leaders to gain advocacy training.

- Israel is launching an "Israel at Heart" program to bring 13 teams of 42 Israeli students to tour college campuses in October to talk about their experience as young Israelis.

- USD-Hagshama, the student division of the World Zionist Organization, is spearheading a "Buy Israel" campaign on campus.

- The graduate center of the City University of New York is launching a forum on Israel studies, which is coordinating a network of academics who will speak out in support of Israel. Its goal is to establish key liaisons at hundreds of campuses around the country.

Organizations are also monitoring the efforts of Palestinian activists in an effort to counter their strategies on campus. For instance, Jewish groups are aware of a speaking tour by Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi next month.

So the Israeli Consulate's office of academic affairs in New York is bringing Yossi Olmert, a former Israeli government spokesman, to tour some of those same campuses.

Olmert proved very effective in countering Ashrawi last year, according to Michael Jankelowitz, Hillel's director of Campus Israel Affairs. □

## Anger, aide to Wallenberg, dies

BUDAPEST (JTA) — Per Anger, who helped Raoul Wallenberg save Hungarian Jews during World War II, died Monday at 88.

Anger and Wallenberg, Swedish diplomats stationed in Hungary, handed out diplomatic passes that eventually allowed more than 30,000 Hungarian Jews to survive.

In 1983, the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial named Anger a Righteous Gentile for his efforts, and in 2000 he was named an honorary citizen of Israel.

After orders from Sweden's ambassador to Hungary, Carl Danielsson, in March 1944, Anger began issuing the passes.

But after Wallenberg arrived in Budapest in July 1944, he and Anger began planning how to save more Jews. From July until the end of that year, they intensified efforts, eventually saving approximately 33,000 Jews.

Anger acknowledged that Wallenberg was the driving force behind their activities.

Anger saw his friend and colleague for the last time on Jan. 10, 1945, a week before Wallenberg disappeared. After the war, Anger dedicated himself to finding out what happened to Wallenberg, who is believed to have died in a Soviet labor camp.

Anger is survived by his wife, Elena, and three children. □

## JEWISH WORLD

### Shoe company gets kicked

A British sneaker company says it will change the name of a shoe whose name is similar to the gas used to kill Jews during World War II.

The word "Zyklon" means "cyclone" in German, but it is better known because of the Zyklon B gas used in Nazi death camps.

A spokesman for the Umbro company told The Associated Press that "the naming of the shoe is purely coincidental and was not intended to communicate any connotations," adding that the company wishes to "express our regret that the Zyklon name may have upset someone." The Simon Wiesenthal Center called the shoe an insult to Holocaust victims and survivors, saying it encourages neo-Nazis and skinheads.

### Clergy keep tax allowance

A U.S. appeals panel dismissed a case that questioned the constitutionality of a tax deduction for clergy. The "parsonage allowance," which allows clergy to deduct fair market housing costs from their federal taxes, was being challenged as a violation of the First Amendment's ban on the establishment of religion.

### Delaware to vote on holiday

An attempt to move Delaware's primary from Rosh Hashanah failed in the state's House of Delegates. For several years, Jewish leaders in the state have objected to the fact that primaries are held on Saturdays, the Jewish Sabbath, but this year is a double whammy. Synagogues in the state are distributing absentee ballots to congregants.

### Interfaith services planned

Hundreds of Jewish, Christian and Muslim congregations plan to honor workers over the Labor Day weekend.

The "Labor in the Pulpits" program, which focuses on the ties between workers and religious communities, will likely include more than 500 congregations in 40 states.

This program, co-sponsored by the AFL-CIO and the National Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice, will highlight Sept. 11 heroes and include a special emphasis on the rights of immigrants.

### Palestinian comic gets the boot

Comic Jackie Mason canceled a Palestinian comedian who was scheduled to open for him in Chicago. "It's not exactly like he's just an Arab American. This guy's a Palestinian," Mason's manager, Jyll Rosenfeld, said of Tuesday night's decision.

Replaced performer Ray Hanania, who launched his career after Sept. 11 in an attempt to unify Americans, said, "I'm upset because I deserve to be on stage and it was a big break for me."

## Little blue boxes for apartheid? So say Johannesburg protesters

By Michael Belling

JOHANNESBURG (JTA) — A little bit of Durban has come to Johannesburg.

Mirroring the efforts of anti-Israel demonstrators to prevent Jewish groups from participating in sessions of last year's U.N. World Conference Against Racism in Durban, pro-Palestinian demonstrators disrupted an ecological workshop Wednesday by Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael-Jewish National Fund at the World Summit for Sustainable Development.

Despite the pro-Palestinian interruptions — the fracas at the JNF workshop was one of several since the conference opened Monday — Palestinian activists have been unable to take over the conference, as they did last year at the anti-racism conference.

The workshop highlighted the JNF's professional expertise in areas relevant to the environmental summit, as well as ways the organization could help other countries.

More than 150 people crowded the workshop premises, designed to hold no more than about 80.

About one-third were pro-Palestinian delegates to the nongovernmental portion of the summit.

As the workshop started, Uri Davis, a pro-Palestinian Israeli activist who wrote the book, "Israel: An Apartheid State," tried to interrupt the proceedings by raising a procedural point. Davis was brought to South Africa by anti-Israel elements both for last year's Durban conference and this year's summit.

The workshop chairman wouldn't allow Davis to proceed.

Yehiel Leket, world chairman of the JNF, said the purpose of the workshop was for JNF experts to present Israeli experiences with sustainable development.

"Our line here is that we are not involved in politics and do not want to get drawn into politics," Leket told JTA. "We have much to share on sustainable development. So far we have managed to keep it that way. Coming here only as a professional body has borne fruit."

There has been significant interest in what JNF has to offer, both from governmental representatives — from the United States, Germany and even Oman — as well as NGOs, Leket said. Members of the JNF technical team spoke on the use of scarce water resources, rehabilitation of degraded areas in the Negev, sustainable biodiversity and ecological forest renewal.

Team member Paul Ginsberg was using a 1930s photograph to illustrate the need for creating new forests when a demonstrator came to the front of the room and shouted that the picture had been taken on the West Bank in what was then Mandatory Palestine.

When security officials removed the protester, Palestinian supporters began chanting "Free, free, Palestine," and "Free, free, West Bank."

The Jewish Agency for Israel said the demonstrators were led by the lawyer for Marwan Barghouti, a Palestinian militia leader jailed in Israel while awaiting trial on terrorism charges.

Minor scuffles ensued as police removed the demonstrators, allowing the presentation to continue after a 30-minute delay.

During the presentation, demonstrators distributed anti-JNF propaganda. One document, issued by the Movement Against Israeli Apartheid in Palestine, alleged that over 700,000 trees were uprooted in one year in "Israeli-occupied Palestine" and demanded that the conference disqualify the JNF, which it called "the mainstay of Israeli apartheid."

A second document, called "Factsheet Jewish National Fund" and issued by LAW — The Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment, accused JNF of helping to carry out the Jewish state's "undeclared aim of getting rid of Israel's indigenous population."

JNF executive member Zvi Lidar said JNF expertise could be useful to many countries, particularly in Africa. "We are committed to remaining focused on the critical issues of sustainable development," he said. "But the Palestinians are coming here and polluting this conference." □

BEHIND THE HEADLINES**Sharon takes over media body; critics see threat to press freedom***By Jessica Steinberg*

JERUSALEM (JTA)— Being Israel's prime minister is never an easy job — but a few weeks ago Ariel Sharon took on another job when he became the minister in charge of the Israel Broadcasting Authority, which oversees the country's public television and radio stations. Critics are asking what the move means for the future of the free press in Israel.

Sharon is temporarily replacing Ra'anan Cohen, the Labor Party minister who resigned from the Cabinet. According to Israeli law, the prime minister automatically takes over portfolios abandoned when ministers quit.

"The fact that the prime minister didn't hesitate to take over the job suggests that he is sending a message that no one may criticize his government with impunity," said Yaron Ezrahi, who heads a communication and democracy project at the Israel Democracy Institute, a left-leaning Jerusalem think tank. "This is a setback for democracy, and it's a very dramatic move."

Created during the British Mandate period in Palestine and set up along the lines of the BBC, the quasi-governmental broadcasting authority runs several radio stations and two television channels.

Control of the authority long has been a political appointment — though analysts say it hasn't made a big difference on news coverage one way or the other, as many reporters, editors and producers tend to be left wing, no matter who is in charge of the broadcasting authority.

When Likud Party chairman Sharon became prime minister in March 2001, part of the coalition deal stipulated that a Labor Party minister would take charge of the broadcasting authority.

After Cohen left the Cabinet and the IBA portfolio, Labor chairman and Defense Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer reportedly promised the post to Science, Culture and Sport Minister Matan Vilnai, also of Labor.

The IBA position would have fit nicely with Vilnai's portfolio, but in the end it wasn't given to him.

Labor officials say that's because Vilnai endorsed Ben-Eliezer's challenger for Labor Party leadership, Haifa Mayor Amram Mitzna.

Ben-Eliezer's spokesman blamed Sharon, claiming the prime minister wants to keep the IBA for himself so he can appoint Likud activists to key positions.

As usual, it's all politics, even when it comes to freedom of the press. Whether Likud or Labor, the broadcasting authority's leadership always has been a political appointment, and often has leaned toward the left, according to Meir Ouziel, a media commentator for the Ma'ariv newspaper.

"There's this sense that if the left controls the media, that's OK, that's normal," Ouziel said. "But when somebody who isn't from the 'in' crowd is in charge, then the situation isn't considered normal. That's the situation here."

Politically speaking, Israeli broadcast journalists generally are considered more biased than Israeli print journalists, according to Yisrael Medad, a board member of Israel's Media Watch. And the traditional bent of broadcasting authority journalism has generally been liberal — even left of liberal — despite its status as a public authority.

Both Labor and Likud politicians have had control over the broadcasting authority in the past. For the most part, both have been guilty of stacking the deck in favor of their political views, according to Medad.

"There is freedom of the press here, but there isn't enough," he said. "It's limited."

The prime minister, through the government, sets up the 36-member oversight committee for the IBA. Given that structure, some say it's doubtful that a public broadcasting authority can be completely free.

"People say the prime minister is taking over?" Medad said. "It could be true. But the government has been running it anyway."

The authority's approximately \$25 million annual budget is funded mainly by license fees for television sets, with about 20 percent of its revenue from advertising.

"It's directly financed by the public," Ezrahi said. "What that means is a moral share for every individual who pays for TV licensing. They're paying directly for a public service."

But it's a public service that is inefficient and overly politicized, Ouziel countered.

"It doesn't respond to 60 percent of Israeli society," he said.

Unlike the situation in the United States, Israel offers very little in terms of alternative commercial broadcasting.

For television news, there is Channel Two, owned by several investors but also subject to political machinations and schemes — particularly when the various consortiums are vying for programming slots, Ezrahi noted. There is little difference between the IBA's Channel One and the independent Channel Two in reporting the news, Ouziel and Medad agreed.

On the radio, Israelis can listen to Galei Tzahal, the military radio station set up in 1950 and funded by the army, which receives its budget from the Defense Ministry.

Known as Army Radio, the station is broadcast on two channels to a primarily civilian audience. It's popular for the music, but it's reporting is not always professional, commented Medad. Nevertheless, no one complains about an overbearing military tone.

Until 1965, the broadcasting authority was under the control of the Prime Minister's Office. The Knesset then passed legislation making the authority a public corporation, ostensibly run by a Cabinet minister who would implement the law.

The minister isn't in direct control, but does wield a tremendous amount of influence.

Politicians of all stripes have been guilty, through their political operatives, of trying to sway news reporting, Ezrahi said. But this time, he believes, Sharon has gone too far, especially with the possibility being discussed of early elections next year in which news coverage could influence voters.

Sharon stated several weeks ago that Israel needs "more patriotic television," a comment that passed with little fanfare but should set off alarm bells, Ezrahi said.

"Patriotic public television is not an extension of government propaganda in democracies," he said. "It serves the citizens. It's not supposed to be patriotic."

Ezrahi thinks Israelis haven't absorbed the meaning of Sharon's takeover because they're more concerned with the current security and economic situation than with freedom of the press.

"If a journalist is risking his life to report the real news or the real conditions of the economy or if we should be getting gas masks, that is much more patriotic than a journalist who collaborates with the prime minister," Ezrahi said. □