



# Daily News Bulletin

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85th Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Army to probe Palestinian deaths

Israel's defense minister instructed the army to have a high-ranking officer probe recent Palestinian civilian deaths during Israeli military activities.

Benjamin Ben-Eliezer asked for the findings and recommendations by the end of the week, in order to prevent "the recurrence of such unfortunate accidents in the future."

Fifteen Palestinians, including several children, were killed by Israeli army fire in the past week.

### IDF chief: Palestinians a 'cancer'

The conflict with the Palestinians is a "cancer" that poses an existential threat to Israel, Israel's army chief of staff said.

In a wide-ranging interview with Ha'aretz, the Israel Defense Force's new chief of staff, Moshe Ya'alon, said Iraq poses less of a threat to Israel than do the Palestinians.

Ya'alon also told the interviewer that Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's Fatah Party, the mainstream movement in Palestinian society, does not recognize Israel's right to exist and is not interested in making peace. Ya'alon criticized the "pathology" that makes many Israelis always blame their own side for hostilities.

### Lawsuit on 'Gold Train' OK

A U.S. court cleared the way last week for Holocaust survivors to pursue restitution claims from the U.S. government.

Hungarian survivors are seeking compensation for personal property they claim was stolen by the Nazis and later seized by the U.S. Army.

The class action lawsuit asserts the U.S. government made no effort to return assets from the infamous Nazi "Gold Train," and suppressed the truth about its actions for more than 50 years.

### A plan for the Dead Sea

Israel and Jordan agreed to lay a pipeline to refill the Dead Sea.

Under the plan, agreed to Sunday at the U.N. conference on development in Johannesburg, water could be sent from the Red Sea to the Dead Sea, which has been shrinking.

Funding for the plan, which could cost up to \$1 billion, would come from the World Bank.

## 5762: A YEAR OF TERROR AND TURMOIL

### For American Jews, year was about terrorism, both at home and in Israel

By Michael J. Jordan

NEW YORK (JTA) — Two years ago, American Jewry buzzed with talk of Jewish "continuity" and "renaissance," and fretted over intermarriage and assimilation.

Last year — already a year into the Palestinian intifada — the community wondered whether solidarity visits, street rallies or good old-fashioned fund-raising was the best way to support Israel. It all seems so long ago.

"Off the top of my head, I would say the main story today is terrorism, terrorism and, oh yeah, terrorism," said Stephen Hoffman, the president and CEO of United Jewish Communities, the umbrella organization of North American Jewish federations. "We'd been watching its poison spreading throughout the Middle East; then when it came to our shores, it was hard to lift your eyes from it."

Following the most lethal terrorist attack ever on U.S. soil last Sept. 11, a broad Jewish communal agenda — spanning the political and religious spectrums — was shoved to the back burner. Attention turned to international affairs: the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict, America's "war on terrorism," the upsurge in global anti-Semitism, even Argentine Jewry's plight amid the country's economic meltdown.

First and foremost, the events of Sept. 11 produced greater American appreciation for Israel's predicament.

"There is a level of anxiety about the very survival of Israel as a viable, modern society, as the wave of suicide murders literally undermine civil society," said Mortimer Zuckerman, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. "You can't live with that kind of insecurity, and people here now understand it even more."

Added Rabbi Eric Yoffie, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the umbrella of the Reform movement: "We began to see Israel not as a local conflict but in more global terms, as a struggle between democratic countries everywhere and fanatic Islam and religious fundamentalism throughout the world."

The empathy for Israel seemed to re-energize the Jewish community's advocacy on its behalf. This would help Israel garner stronger support from somewhat surprising sources: the Bush administration, conservative Republicans and evangelical Christians.

Yet Jews were immediately thrown on the defensive by the outlandish charge that the Mossad was behind the attacks. A more serious image problem was the question many Americans asked after Sept. 11: "Why do they hate us?"

The media dutifully put the question to local Arab-American leaders, who responded that the Arab world's hatred of America was derived, in large part, from perceived U.S. support for Israel at the expense of the Palestinians.

Some American analysts and pundits, desperate to assign blame for the catastrophe, went along with it.

A dragnet by U.S. immigration and police officers ensnared some 1,200 Arab-looking residents. In the process, it also scooped up some 60 Israelis on visa violations, many of whom subsequently were deported.

The roundup triggered a debate that would continue all year in the Jewish community and the society at large: How to strike a balance between enhanced security and protection of civil liberties?

"The war on terrorism is confronting some pretty important civil rights and liberties issues the Jewish community has championed for decades," said Hannah Rosenthal, executive director of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs. "Where do you draw the

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Ben-Eliezer warns Lebanon, Syria

Israel's defense minister warned Lebanon and Syria that they were "playing with fire" by allowing attacks across Israel's northern border. Benjamin Ben-Eliezer's warning came after Hezbollah attacked Israeli army positions Aug. 29, killing Sgt. Ofir Mishal, 20.

A Syrian official said last Friday that "Israel's threats are nothing new, and Syria will resist any Israeli attempt to embroil it in a war."

Israeli officials raised the issue with U.S. envoy David Satterfield, saying they were concerned that Syria and Hezbollah might attack Israel in the event of an American attack on Iraq, or create a conflict on the northern border to pre-empt a strike on Iraq.

### Palestinian: Stop bombings

The Palestinian Authority's interior minister called on all Palestinian factions to stop suicide bombings. In his first interview with an Israeli newspaper, Abdel Razek Yehiyeh told Yediot Achronot that Palestinians must return to "the legitimate struggle against the occupation," without violence.

"Suicide attacks are contrary to the Palestinian tradition, are against international law and harm the Palestinian people," Yehiyeh said.

### Denmark's plan for peace

Denmark's foreign minister is heading to the Middle East to present a new peace initiative. The plan to be presented by Per Stig Moeller, approved by the European Union, reportedly aims to create a Palestinian state by 2005.

During his stay in the region, which begins Monday, Moeller is expected to meet with Egypt's foreign minister, representatives of the Quartet — the United States, United Nations, European Union and Russia — Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat.

line between people's right to live in freedom?"

Despite the clampdown, many American Jews still felt insecure. In late September, Al-Qaida reportedly faxed a statement to Pakistani news organizations in which it warned, "Wherever there are Americans and Jews, they will be targeted."

Then came the anthrax scares. They generally targeted the media, but Jewish institutions were on alert.

Then there was the dramatic rise in attacks on European Jews and their institutions as Israeli-Palestinian violence intensified. This followed a wave of anti-Semitic attacks in Europe after the Palestinian intifada erupted in September 2000.

Most attacks reportedly were carried out by young Arab immigrants, but Jews were startled and distressed by the failure of governments, such as France's, to respond.

Closer to home, American Jews went back on alert in late June when the FBI warned Jewish organizations that Al-Qaida might be planning to assault Jewish institutions with gasoline tankers. The warning wasn't taken lightly, as Al-Qaida had claimed responsibility for an April 11 attack on the Tunisian island of Djerba in which a fuel truck rammed a centuries-old synagogue, killing 21 people.

American Jews also were rattled on July 4, when an Egyptian man walked up to the El Al ticket counter at Los Angeles International Airport and shot and killed a clerk and passenger. The FBI declined to brand it terrorism, but Israel said it had no doubt.

Indeed, the events of Sept. 11 gave rise to a new rallying cry for pro-Israel supporters: "Israel and America share the same enemy."

Jewish activists lobbied elected representatives, took to the airwaves and did battle on college campuses — often against Arab and Muslim students, sometimes against left-wing Jewish students and faculty.

Israel supporters also put their money where their mouths were: The UJC announced it raised \$303 million specifically for Israel during the year, including \$213 million since the launch of an emergency campaign on April 8, Hoffman said. In addition, some 30 percent of the \$860 million raised during UJC's annual fund-raising campaign went toward Israel.

But the crowning achievement of Jewish activism was the April 15 rally in Washington. It drew some 100,000 Jews from around the country to deliver a message of solidarity with Israel to both Jerusalem and Washington.

Jewish activism and events on the ground seemed to make an impression: The Bush administration came to align itself more and more with Sharon's policies.

This came despite Bush's call for a two-state solution and his explicit reference to "Palestine," a first for a U.S. president. The White House also issued occasional criticism of Israeli actions.

Jewish leaders were relieved and delighted when on June 24 Bush took the "historic" step of calling for the replacement of Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat and democratization of the Palestinian Authority.

"To me, the single most important event of the year is the unbelievable friendliness and affinity of President Bush and the major part of his administration toward Israel and the Jewish state," said Dr. Mandell Ganchrow, executive vice president of the Religious Zionists of America and former president of the Orthodox Union. "He looks at the issue of suicide bombers with a vision of what's moral and immoral, and acts on it. He has done what's right for Israel."

While mainstream Jewry reveled in Washington's support for Israel, Jews more critical of Israel's policies felt their voices were being muzzled. By summer's end, however, the Jewish left appeared to be gaining strength.

Their dissent was felt primarily through newspaper ads and petitions circulated via e-mail, demanding Israel "end its occupation."

In the end, despite the extraordinary focus on terrorism and Israel, communal life — and its lingering concerns — went on almost as normal. Few issues were shelved altogether; they only received less attention.

Rabbi Baruch Lanner, a former professional in the Orthodox Union's youth group, was convicted of sexual abuse in a case that critics said exposed the Orthodox communal leadership's insensitivity to the victims.

Meanwhile, the Orthodox community applauded the U.S. Supreme Court verdict that school vouchers — which the community had lobbied for — did not breach the constitutional barrier between church and state. □



## Daily News Bulletin

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## JEWISH WORLD

### Palestinian protest broken up

South African police used water cannons to disperse Palestinians trying to prevent Shimon Peres from speaking in Johannesburg.

The protesters were dispersed Sunday before the Israeli foreign minister arrived to speak to members of South Africa's Jewish community.

Peres is in Johannesburg for the U.N. World Summit on Sustainable Development.

### Tourists flood Prague synagogue

One thousand tourists visited Prague's Old-New Synagogue as it reopened after mid-August floods. Prague's Jewish community allowed free access to the site last Friday so visitors could see the extent of the damage.

The chairman of the community, Tomas Jelinek, said the water damage would take six months to fix. The synagogue was opened with the permission of health officials and the Czech Ministry of Culture.

### Ex-Gestapo aide gets passport

An accused war criminal who fled the United States was issued an Estonian passport. Michael Gorshkow, 79, obtained an Estonian passport after he left the United States last month before a federal court decision to revoke his citizenship.

The Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations accused Gorshkow of helping to kill about 3,000 people in the Slutsk Ghetto while serving as an interpreter and interrogator for the Gestapo. The Simon Wiesenthal Center is pressuring Estonian prosecutors to charge Gorshkow, though his alleged crimes were committed in Belarus.

### Israel, U.S. discuss terrorism

Israel and the United States held a conference on coping with suicide terrorism.

Some 150 security and rescue service personnel attended the first-of-its-kind conference last week in Washington, according to Ha'aretz. The Israeli presentations included discussions on assassinating wanted terrorists, demolishing terrorists' homes and deporting their relatives.

The Americans demonstrated several new technological devices. The two sides agreed to maintain close cooperation.

### Book: FBI spied on Zionists

The FBI spied on American Zionists during the 1940s, according to a new book. In "Militant Zionism in America: The Rise and Impact of the Jabotinsky Movement in the United States, 1926-1948," Rafael Medoff writes that the FBI collected information on some Zionists because it was worried about their connections to the Jewish militia in Palestine.

## Dutch-Israeli seniors are told they may lose pension benefits

By Elise Friedmann

AMSTERDAM (JTA) — In an apparent swipe at Israeli settlement policy, Holland may cut pensions for Dutch seniors who have moved to Israel but live beyond the state's pre-1967 borders.

Beginning Jan. 1, Dutch citizens abroad will face severe pension cuts or a complete loss of Dutch child benefits and orphans' pensions unless the country where they live has a benefit treaty with the Netherlands.

This won't affect most Dutch immigrants to Israel, where a benefit treaty has been in place since 2001.

Early this month, however, the Social Insurance Bank, the administrative body responsible for distributing the benefits, decided to take a stand against Israel's settlement policy.

The Netherlands has never recognized Israel's seizure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the 1967 Six-Day War, the bank declared, ruling that the benefits treaty therefore didn't apply to Dutch-born seniors living beyond the 1967 borders.

Some 400 Dutch seniors, mostly residents of Jerusalem neighborhoods such as Ramot and Gilo that were built on land seized in 1967, were notified of imminent pension cuts.

"As soon as you move to the Netherlands or a country with a treaty you will qualify for a higher pension again," the bank wrote them.

Some Dutch Jews were outraged.

"My mother-in-law is 81. Does the bank want her to move to Tel Aviv or Amsterdam?" Yakov Colthof asked.

Most of the pensioners are elderly and contributed to the Dutch pension system all their lives.

"Nobody forced the bank to apply the treaty so literally," Colthof told the Chronicle newspaper. "In Jerusalem particularly, it's hard to determine who lives beyond the Green Line," as Israel's pre-Six Day War border with the West Bank is known.

"My mother-in-law's street isn't even on the map," he said. "This looks like an anti-Israeli measure by political zealots at the bank." □

## Australian court uses hate laws to rule against Holocaust denier

By Henry Benjamin

SYDNEY, Australia (JTA) — An Australian judge has ruled that a Holocaust denier must stop distributing anti-Semitic material.

Monday's decision by Justice Peter Graham Hely regarding Olga Scully is believed to be the first time a conviction has rested on the country's hate crimes laws.

The Ukrainian-born Scully, 59, who has long disseminated anti-Jewish information, vowed to continue distributing the material.

Some of the pamphlets she distributed claimed that the Holocaust was made up. She also accused Jews of controlling pornography.

In a previous court appearance, Scully told Australia's Federal Court that the Holocaust, the world banking system and the international media were all part of a Jewish conspiracy.

Scully will now be in contempt of court if she continues to distribute offensive material. She would be subject to fines or a jail sentence.

A complaint registered to the court would result in her being charged.

The case against her was brought by Jeremy Jones, president of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, in a bid to uphold a 2000 ruling made by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission banning Scully from distributing anti-Semitic material and ordering her to apologize publicly to the Australian Jewish community. □

BEHIND THE HEADLINES**As Israeli students go to school, it's by car and not by public bus***By Jessica Steinberg*

JERUSALEM (JTA) — At 7:25 a.m. on Sunday, Ariel Drin, 13, shifted nervously from one foot to the other, waiting with his mother for the school bus to arrive at a busy intersection in the Jerusalem neighborhood of Gilo.

"He has to get all the way to Kiryat Moshe," explained his mother, Hana, referring to a neighborhood across town. "He hates being late on the first day."

Ariel attends a semi-private religious school, which is why a private bus ferries him to school. Most of Israel's 1.6 million school-aged children walk to school or take public transport.

The Drins waited for Ariel's bus at an Egged bus stop filled with Gilo locals, waiting for one of several different bus lines heading into central Jerusalem. One of the bus routes listed was the 32A, which was blown up on June 18, killing 19 Israelis on their way to school and work.

The accorded double buses pulling in and out of the bus stop were filling up on Sunday morning as teen-agers with heavy backpacks and adults weighed down by hefty briefcases looked for seats.

But a glance into the cars making their way in the early morning traffic found back seats full of school kids, ferried by harried parents looking anxiously at their watches.

Many parents this year seem to be driving or arranging car pools to school, erring on the side of safety rather than risking rides on public buses, which have been frequent targets for suicide bombers.

Hana Drin, who teaches ninth grade at a public high school, also was waiting for her "trempp," Hebrew slang for a ride, to work. Her daughter, who is in 12th grade, got a ride to school.

"Tomorrow she'll go with me," Drin said. "Because of the situation, we're forced to think of ways to get our kids to school. I'm just hoping for a good year, one without worries."

This year, security and safety, as well as hopes for a peaceful, quiet year, were the wishes expressed by parents, teachers and students.

"You want to think there's hope, but I'm just not so sure," said Ariel Goodman, a father of six, while dropping off Chani, a second grader, at Horev, a religious elementary school in the Jerusalem neighborhood of Old Katamon. "Everybody is under a tremendous amount of stress."

At Horev, security measures include guards at each entrance and a high, refurbished fence around the corner lot. Students will not line up in the yard each morning, and only two classes can be in the school yard at the same time, according to Goodman.

"I've got eyes in the back of my head," said Itzik, an affable guard who carries a gun and a walkie-talkie. "I know the faces of everyone who walks in here and I know who doesn't belong."

For some parents, Itzik's presence is enough of a safeguard. Bruria Avidan, shepherding her triplets, Reut, Shmuel and Ya'akov, to their first day of first grade, said security is "very good" at Horev.

Goodman, who is originally from Minneapolis, isn't so sure. "So long as a suicide bombing hasn't taken place in schools

and synagogues, people aren't worried," he said. "They worry about malls and cafes because that's already happened."

In past years, parents focused their worries on whether school would actually start, as Israeli teachers are notorious for striking on Sept. 1 — the first day of school — to protest budget cuts, salary freezes and layoffs.

This year, however, all elementary schools were open, while public high school teachers and middle school teachers belonging to the Secondary Schools Teachers Association were on strike, protesting budget cuts.

But the strike ended with an agreement Monday, and secondary students were slated to begin classes Tuesday.

Given the state of affairs in Israel, many parents find the strikes appalling, something else to gripe about during an increasingly fractious time.

"Isn't there another way to solve these problems?" asked Sarah Harpaz, a frustrated Rosh Ha'ayin parent whose 10-year-old son wasn't in school on Sunday. "It should be understood that education is a top priority. There shouldn't be problems with it every year."

Yet the parents themselves are often the culprits, even if their concerns are valid. The Parents Association initially threatened to strike over security problems in the schools, specifically the lack of guards for kindergartens.

With the help of 5,000 volunteers, police were stationed around schools on Sunday in order to supplement security.

The school system also is getting some security help from North American Jewry. As part of the continuing Israel Emergency Campaign, United Jewish Communities is pledging \$20 million to supplement the government budget for school security guards.

The funding is allocated to schools, kindergartens and extended-day programs in Jerusalem, Hadera, Netanya, Afula, Kfar Saba and other communities near Palestinian areas, where terror attacks have been most prevalent.

The students themselves, however, don't seem too concerned about security measures. Life, they say, must go on.

In Kochav Ya'ir, a suburban community that is a 10-minute drive from Kfar Saba and very close to the border with the West Bank, four teen-age girls hoped for a Sunday strike to extend their summer vacation, but said that fears of suicide bombings rarely stopped them from taking buses or 'trempps' to school or the mall.

Fear, even during the two years of the intifada, is a concept they try not to embrace.

"We're maturing in this 'matzav,'" said Renana Yuzak, 18, using the popular Hebrew term for the security situation. "We grew up in this matzav, with the matzav."

"I don't let fear limit me," added Talya Flint, 17. "A terror attack can happen anywhere. I can't start making graphs to figure out where and when the next one is going to happen."

They call Harel, their religious girls' school in Kfar Saba, "the ghetto": The guard won't let them outside school gates when there is a high alert for an attack. "You can't get out, and you can't get in," quipped Flint, a 12th grader.

Both Flint and Yuzak have nearly decided to serve in the army, as long as they won't be relegated to serving coffee.

"In 11th grade, we learned about Lehi and Etzel," said Flint, referring to pre-state Jewish militias. "They were fighting to create the state; we're fighting to remain a state. That touched me inside. That's what I have to figure out this year." □