



# Daily News Bulletin

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85th Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Israeli killed in Hebron ambush

One Israeli was killed and three children wounded Monday when a Palestinian gunman opened fire in the West Bank city of Hebron.

The victims were part of a group of Israelis from Jerusalem who had come to visit the Tomb of the Patriarchs on Sukkot, according to Hebron residents quoted by the Jerusalem Post.

### Israelis, Palestinians hold talks

Israeli and Palestinian officials met Monday to discuss ways to end Israel's siege of Yasser Arafat's headquarters. Following the discussions, Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat met with the Palestinian Authority president at the besieged compound in Ramallah. Israel has demanded a list of all Palestinians holed up in the compound, but Arafat is refusing to comply.

### Israel Ramallah action discussed

Two resolutions under discussion at the U.N. Security Council demand that Israel end its siege of Yasser Arafat's headquarters. In an emergency Security Council meeting Monday, diplomats addressed resolutions introduced by Syria and the United States.

The U.S. resolution "calls upon Israel to cease measures in and around Ramallah" while calling on the Palestinian Authority to "implement its expressed commitment to ensure that those responsible for terrorist acts are brought to justice." The Syrian resolution makes no reference to Palestinian terror, but calls for Israel's withdrawal. Israel, meanwhile, defended its attack:

"Inside the leadership compound in Ramallah are 50 individuals who have planned, funded and orchestrated scores of terrorist attacks and who are responsible for countless deaths of innocent civilians," Israeli ambassador Yehuda Lancry said.

### A premier for the Palestinians?

A group of Palestinians reportedly are discussing having Yasser Arafat's deputy become prime minister. Under the plan, Arafat deputy Mahmoud Abbas would assume the position in a power-sharing arrangement with Arafat. Israel's Army Radio said Monday's meeting reflected the rise of "an alternative Palestinian leadership to Yasser Arafat, although none of the participants would acknowledge this."

## NEWS ANALYSIS

### With Ramallah under Israeli siege, it's unclear what's on Sharon's mind

By Leslie Susser

JERUSALEM (JTA) — On the face of it, sending in tanks and bulldozers to demolish most of Yasser Arafat's Ramallah headquarters doesn't seem to make a whole lot of sense for Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

For months, Sharon has been trying to weaken the Palestinian Authority president. Now, just when Arafat appeared to be tottering, the siege in Ramallah has given him a new lease on life, at least in the short term.

Thousands of indignant Palestinians, in recent weeks impervious to Arafat's fate, have been demonstrating in support of their humiliated leader. World and regional leaders, alienated by Arafat's persistent deceit, are again showing sympathy for the underdog. And the U.N. Security Council, as is its wont, convened to debate Israel's actions — overlooking last week's suicide bombings that precipitated the Israeli attack.

But Israeli leaders claim there is method in the madness: regime change.

Sharon has made it plain that he wants to expel Arafat. Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and the defense establishment — including Defense Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer and the Israeli army's chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Moshe Ya'alon — argue that it would do far more harm than good.

By chipping away at Arafat's compound, pundits say, Sharon has created a situation where there will be nothing left to demolish after future bombings, and no sanctions left to impose on Arafat but expulsion.

"Sharon in his inimitable way is leading Ben-Eliezer and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres to the inevitable decision to expel," analyst Nahum Barnea commented in the daily Yediot Achronot newspaper. "It will happen after the next Hamas terror attack. More than Arafat is our captive, he is a hostage of the Hamas, who couldn't have asked for a better prize."

Palestinian officials, too, seem to have gotten the message. Arafat security adviser Mohammad Dahlan reportedly warned Hamas and Islamic Jihad that Arafat would be expelled if they carried out more attacks; in that case, he told them, Arafat's blood would be on their head.

Arafat himself, according to some reports in the Israeli press, said that if released he would work to restrain the Palestinian terror groups, including the Al-Aksa Brigades of his own Fatah movement — though in the past Arafat has made so many similar promises that by now they impress few Israeli leaders.

Some Israeli pundits worry that Palestinian lawmakers and Fatah reformers, who in recent weeks were becoming unprecedentedly bold in their challenges to Arafat, would now feel obligated to rally around him to avoid appearing as Israeli stooges.

However, Ben-Eliezer believes the Ramallah operation, designed to chip away at Arafat's authority and status without expelling him, will accelerate regime change.

The more Arafat is seen to be impotent, the thinking goes, the greater the incentive to replace him and the less fear reformers will have of his wrath.

Ben-Eliezer's hope is that a new leadership that witnessed Arafat's demise — and the toll terrorism has taken on Palestinian society — would be more willing to carry out political, security and economic reforms, to fight terror and to talk peace.

Ya'alon, the army chief, maintains that before this can happen, the Palestinians must internalize the fact that their violent uprising has failed.

The destruction in Ramallah, he believes, will make this plain and accelerate the

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Terror victim saves Palestinian

A Palestinian girl was recovering after she received a kidney from a Jewish victim of a Palestinian suicide bombing. Seven-year-old Yasmin Abu Ramila, a resident of Jerusalem, had been undergoing kidney dialysis for nearly two years while waiting for a transplant.

The family of Jonathan Jesner, a 19-year-old yeshiva student from Scotland, volunteered to donate his organs after he died last Friday, a day after a suicide bombing aboard a Tel Aviv bus.

### Iraqi-trained terror cell arrested

Israeli security forces arrested three Palestinians suspected of undergoing training in Iraq to carry out terrorist attacks.

The three were apprehended after they returned from Iraq, Israel Radio reported Monday. According to the Israeli daily Ha'aretz, senior Israeli officials are traveling to Washington to brief the CIA about the Palestinian terror cell.

### Christians crusade for Israel

More than 2,000 Christians from around the world came to Israel to show their support for the Jewish state. On Sunday, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon addressed the gathering. "When I entered, when I saw you and I saw your friendship, I lost all my worries," Sharon told the crowd.

The visit was sponsored by the International Christian Embassy, a Christian Zionist group based in Jerusalem.

### Report: Children's shields ordered

Israel is reportedly ordering a batch of children's bulletproof jackets from a Russian manufacturer. The Russian company, the Moscow Scientific and Research Institute of Steel, believes it is the first in the world to design bulletproof gear for children.

search for a new beginning. The Ramallah operation is code-named "A Matter of Time."

Though at first the siege may seem to have backfired, Israeli leaders believe that over time — weeks rather than months — Arafat's decline will be self-evident and the operation will be judged a success.

Even with the siege in full force, they note, Arafat deputy Mahmoud Abbas, better known as Abu Mazen, convened a meeting to discuss the appointment of a prime minister to share power with Arafat.

Though Abbas is a close Arafat associate, Israeli officials see this as a major step toward reforming the Palestinian political establishment and enabling a more moderate leadership to emerge.

One of the more prominent mid-level Palestinian leaders declared openly on Israeli television that the Palestinians need a prime minister alongside Arafat as part of their political reform, but claimed this was not tied to the siege in Ramallah.

However, there is by no means a consensus around Abbas or any other potential leader, or even about the need for a prime minister. Young leaders of Fatah's Tanzim militia say Abbas and the group of Arafat cronies, most of whom returned from lives of luxury in Tunis to the West Bank and Gaza after the Oslo accords, don't speak for the Palestinian people.

In other words, even if the Israeli strategy works and there is a regime change, it might end up empowering a more militant Palestinian leadership, made up mainly of Tanzim and/or Hamas radicals.

Though the focus for now is on Arafat, the army has made it clear that Hamas leaders too will be targeted if the organization continues its bombing campaign.

The government reportedly has decided in principle to deport Hamas' leader, Sheik Ahmad Yassin, but the army is waiting for the opportune moment.

"We have not finished our job in Gaza," Sharon declared Monday. "The day will come when we will have to concentrate forces there and deal with Hamas."

Still, the main focus remains Arafat. He is blamed for the failure of the "Gaza/Bethlehem First" cease-fire effort, under which Israel turned over security responsibility to Palestinian forces in those areas as a test that could be extended to other areas.

Yet even in the Gaza Strip, where P.A. security forces remain fully intact, they did nothing to fight terror, and Arafat himself intervened to prevent his forces from keeping the situation too quiet, the Israeli daily Ha'aretz reported.

The re-emergence of the bombers last week led Israel to reimpose its hold on Palestinian cities, rather than loosening it as envisaged in the rolling cease-fire plan.

On the Israeli left, the siege on Arafat and the retightening of the screws in the West Bank sparked public skepticism about Sharon's motives.

Meretz Party leader Yossi Sarid accused Sharon of playing to the Likud gallery, pointing out that the party is due soon to elect convention delegates who will decide whether Sharon or former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu leads the party in the next election.

Labor's Yossi Beilin describes the Ramallah operation as "Sharon's horror show," and accused Ben-Eliezer of being "stupid enough" to go along with an attempt to destroy chances for a peace process.

Indeed, the left wingers ask, what would Sharon do if he got the moderate Palestinian leadership he claims he wants? What would he offer them?

The Ramallah operation also led to the first real tension in months between the Israeli government and the American administration. Escalation in the Israeli-Palestinian arena was the last thing the Americans wanted as they seek to build Mideast support for a possible strike against Iraq.

Some Israeli pundits were quick to see in those open differences a portent of things to come.

Once the Americans deal with Iraq, they say — and especially if a moderate Palestinian leadership emerges — there could be heavy U.S. pressure on Israel to make concessions to the Palestinians as part of an American bid to rebuild ties with the Arab world. □

(Leslie Susser is diplomatic correspondent for the Jerusalem Report.)



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## JEWISH WORLD

### Swiss reject Shoah foundation

Swiss voters turned down a plan to create a foundation to help victims of the Holocaust. Right-wing politician Christoph Blocher hailed the result of Sunday's referendum, saying, "The Swiss people cannot be blackmailed."

In March 1997, then-President Arnold Koller proposed the foundation, saying it should be used to help the "victims of poverty and catastrophes," including the Holocaust. The foundation was proposed as a face-saving gesture at a time when Switzerland was confronting charges of financial complicity with Nazi Germany and of hoarding the deposits of Holocaust survivors.

### Harvard prez: Calls anti-Semitic

Harvard President Lawrence Summers said recent calls for Harvard and other schools to divest from Israel were anti-Semitic. The divestment movement, which has spread to more than 40 campuses, condemns Israel for alleged human rights abuses against the Palestinians. However, no school has yet announced plans to divest from Israel.

Summers, who made his remarks last week, was the first university leader to speak out against the movement, according to the *Boston Globe*. "Profoundly anti-Israel views are increasingly finding support in progressive intellectual communities," said Summers, who said he was speaking as a concerned member of the community and not as university president. "Serious and thoughtful people are advocating and taking actions that are anti-Semitic in their effect, if not their intent."

### Group wants Montreal inquiry

Quebec Jewish leaders are calling for a government inquiry into a recent university riot that led to the cancellation of a speech by former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The Sept. 9 riot at Montreal's Concordia University was a "gross violation of our fundamental freedoms, as well as the academic freedoms a university should cherish and protect," the Quebec office of B'nai Brith Canada said in a statement.

### Sukkot 'Survivor'

The University of Florida is staging a Sukkot edition of the popular TV hit "Survivor." Nine university students, selected from 100 applicants, will compete to endure nine days of challenges — including a scavenger hunt, ropes course, ice-cream eating contest and decorating and sleeping in the sukkah — in hopes of winning a motor scooter. The group includes three Jews, a Muslim and five Christians. Sukkot Survivor is an annual program put on by the university's Jewish Student Union and Student Government.

## THE 2002 U.S. ELECTIONS

### In the races for governor, two Jews remain standing

By Sharon Samber

WASHINGTON (JTA) — In the end, there are two.

A U.S. election season that had shown promise as the "Year of the Jewish Governor" is winding down with only two Jews left standing in the race for their state's highest office.

This political cycle began with seven Jewish gubernatorial candidates, vying in several of the 36 state races.

Now just two states have a good chance of seeing Jewish governors — Pennsylvania and Hawaii.

It remains to be seen if the number of Jewish candidates for governor this year heralds a new trend in Jewish involvement in state politics, or whether this is just an unusual year.

In Pennsylvania, Ed Rendell, the former mayor of Philadelphia, beat back Robert Casey in May and is likely to win the open seat that was vacated when Tom Ridge stepped down to head the Department of Homeland Security.

Ridge's replacement, Mark Schweiker, elected not to run.

Rendell is favored by Jewish voters and as of now has a double-digit lead over his opponent, State Attorney General Mike Fisher.

In Hawaii, Linda Lingle, a Republican, is the favorite for the open seat after handily winning the primary on Saturday. She faces Lt. Gov. Mazie Hirono, who won the three-way Democratic primary but received fewer than half of the votes cast there.

Two Jewish governors might not sound dramatic, but only 17 Jews are believed to have served as any state's governor since 1801 — though data for the early years is not precise.

If Rendell and Lingle prevail, they would be the first Jewish governors since 1994, when Bruce Sundlun served as governor of Rhode Island.

Rendell's race should be seen as encouraging for other Jews who want to run statewide campaigns, said Jason Silberberg, political director for the National Jewish Democratic Council. Lingle would become only the second Jewish woman to serve as governor. Madeleine Kunin was Vermont's governor from 1985 to 1991.

Lingle lost a previous bid for governor in 1998 by only 1 percent of the vote.

The governor's seat has never attracted as many Jewish political aspirants as has Capitol Hill.

Many of today's Jewish politicians have followed a well-worn political path by running for a congressional seat.

Jewish candidates from heavily Jewish areas often receive help from their Jewish constituencies, and it has become commonplace to see Jews in the U.S. House of Representatives and to maintain a "minyan," at least 10, in the U.S. Senate.

Also, a number of Jews want to serve in positions where they could help Israel, experts believe, and Congress seems to be the best place.

But being the top dog of a state drew seven Jewish candidates this year, though most could not pull in enough votes or money.

In Oregon, Democrat Bev Stein ran strongly in a very competitive three-way race, but ultimately lost. If she had won she would have been favored to win the seat as the state is leaning Democratic.

The Massachusetts primaries began with two Jewish candidates and ended with none. Both Robert Reich, the secretary of labor under President Clinton, and Steve Grossman, the former chairman of the Democratic National Committee and a former president of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the pro-Israel lobby, lost in the fight for the Democratic nomination.

Grossman pulled out of the race in August, conceding he did not have the funds to continue. Grossman also did not have widespread name recognition in a crowded primary with a lot of big-name Democrats.

But even the more well-known, Reich, found the political climate wasn't right for him either, as he lost his primary last week to the state treasurer, Shannon O'Brien. □

## Anti-Semitic campaign tactic may have hurt German opposition

By Toby Axelrod

BERLIN (JTA) — Jewish leaders are celebrating the results of Germany's national elections as a sign that anti-Semitic campaigns do not pay.

As the results from Sunday's election came in, one politician — Jurgen Mollemann, vice president of the Free Democratic Party — paid for his negative campaign with his job.

Mollemann, who long has expressed sympathy for Palestinian suicide bombers, roiled Germany earlier this year when he said that Michel Friedman, a vice president of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, helped provoke anti-Semitism by his manner and behavior.

Though xenophobia and right-wing populism are rising in other parts of Europe, Mollemann's party was hurt by his statements, which many saw as anti-Semitic. His party's poor showing cost the opposition Christian Social Union/Christian Democratic Union a chance to build a governing coalition.

Instead, Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's Social Democratic Party will remain in power with its partner of four years, the Green Party.

The election was described as the closest in Germany's postwar history.

"The most important result is that if you bring anti-Semitic ideas into an election campaign in this country, the people don't accept it," Friedman said in a telephone interview with JTA.

Earlier this year, Friedman called Mollemann's anti-Israel statements one-sided and anti-Semitic.

Paul Spiegel, president of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, said Monday he is pleased with Mollemann's resignation.

He was "thankful that the attempt to win with anti-Semitic slogans has failed," Spiegel said in a statement. "The voters showed clearly that German democracy is healthy."

Mollemann was not the only German politician to step down after the election results came in. Schroeder said Justice Minister Herta Daeubler-Gmelin had announced she would not seek another term in the post.

Last week, Daeubler-Gmelin was reported to have said that President Bush's saber-rattling on Iraq was similar to what Hitler had done to divert attention from domestic issues.

She later denied having made the comment.

Mollemann's attacks continued to the final days of the campaign, despite FDP leader Guido Westerwelle's attempts to silence him.

In the tumultuous post-election hours, when it was clear the FDP had destroyed the opposition's chances of unseating Schroeder, Mollemann resigned his vice presidential post. But he said he would not give up his role as head of the party in his home state, North-Rhine Westphalia, where the FDP managed to beat the Greens.

Friedman said he is "relieved" by Mollemann's resignation.

"But I don't believe this is solving the real problem, which is that 25 percent to 30 percent of the German population holds anti-Semitic beliefs," he said. "We had an election campaign that was anti-Semitic, anti-Zionist and anti-American."

He added that there should now be a public debate in Germany about such issues, "because we are speaking about the foundations of German democracy."

The Greens became the tie breaker in the election, which left the Social Democrats and CSU/CDU with exactly 38.5 percent of the vote each.

The Greens barely beat the FDP, 8.6 percent to 7.4 percent.

The reconstituted Communist party, the Party of Democratic Socialism, ended up with 4 percent of the vote nationwide.

Other parties from the far left to the far right pulled in less than 3 percent combined.

Some warn that the post-election teeth-gnashing over anti-Semitism could have negative consequences.

"There is a danger when Jewish topics are considered to be the pivotal factor in an election in a country with less than 100,000 Jews," Deidre Berger, director of the American Jewish Committee's office in Berlin, told JTA.

While "there was a lot of discomfort with comments made by Jurgen Mollemann," she said, "I still think the party should look elsewhere" to explain its failure.

Berger said it was "certainly of significance for the Jewish community" that the Greens' leader, Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer, will probably remain in office under a continued coalition between the Social Democrats and the Greens.

"He has shown a remarkable commitment to Israel and the Jewish people," she said.

At the same time, she added, "The incremental shift in Germany's policy toward Israel has less to do with specific parties than with a younger generation coming to power."

Friedman, who is a member of the Christian Democrats, pointed out that the Greens "were 100 percent kosher in the debate" about anti-Semitism during the campaign.

In fact, Fischer was one of the first political leaders to condemn Mollemann's campaign tactics as anti-Semitic.

Friedman decided not to respond to the most recent of Mollemann's attacks, which included a flier in the final campaign week criticizing Friedman and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

"It was a very tough time in the second period of the campaign not to say anything, but I wanted to show that" Mollemann's tactic "is not dependent on my reactions," Friedman said. "I was only the symbol for the Jewish community itself." □

## Calif. Shoah survivors get help

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — Holocaust survivors and heirs in California will get more time to reclaim stolen artwork.

The first of three Holocaust-related bills signed Sept. 19 by Gov. Gray Davis extends the statute of limitations until 2010 for lawsuits brought by Holocaust survivors or their heirs to recover stolen artwork now housed in museums or galleries.

The second law bars using Holocaust restitution payments received after January 1, 2000, to calculate a survivor or heir's income tax or their financial need calculations for receiving benefits.

The third encourages teaching of Holocaust history to school children and recording aging survivors' histories, creates a state task force on the Holocaust, genocide, human rights and tolerance education, and establishes a university study center. An estimated 14,000 to 20,000 survivors live in California. □