



# Daily News Bulletin

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85th Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Home of attack suspect razed

Israeli soldiers demolished the Tulkarm-area home of a terrorist who allegedly orchestrated Sunday's attack on a kibbutz in which five Israelis were killed.

Mohammed Naefa is also believed to have carried out several shooting attacks on Israeli settlers and soldiers in the area.

Many members of the Al-Aksa Brigade, which claimed responsibility for the kibbutz attack, went into hiding this week, anticipating Israeli reprisals. Following the attack, the army swept through Tulkarm and its adjacent refugee camp early Tuesday morning and began rounding up terror suspects.

The army also tightened a siege on Nablus, completely blocking the main entrances to the city, according to the Israeli daily Ha'aretz.

### Netanyahu vows to expel Arafat

Israeli Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that if he is elected prime minister he will expel Yasser Arafat.

Netanyahu made the vow during a Likud Party convention Tuesday in Jerusalem. In the speech, Netanyahu called the Palestinian Authority president the "head of the murderers" who carried out an attack Sunday night on a kibbutz in which five Israelis were killed.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon addressed the convention after Netanyahu.

"Security is not built on slogans or magical solutions," Sharon told the Likud faithful. Sharon, who faces Netanyahu in a Nov. 28 primary for the Likud leadership, has promised President Bush not to oust or harm Arafat.

### Harvard invites controversial poet

A poet who said West Bank settlers should be "shot dead" was invited to speak at Harvard University this week. Tom Paulin, who lectures at Oxford University, told an Egyptian newspaper earlier this year that "Brooklyn-born" Jewish settlers should be "shot dead," according to National Review Online.

These settlers are "Nazis, racists. I feel nothing but hatred for them," he also was quoted as saying. "I can understand how suicide bombers feel." Paulin was invited by Harvard's English department, according to the article.

## NEWS ANALYSIS

### With Ramon staying in race, Labor leadership primary is up for grabs

By Leslie Susser

JERUSALEM (JTA) — A little over a week before the Labor Party's Nov. 19 primary elections, Haifa Mayor Amram Mitzna was well ahead in the three-way race for party leadership.

Unfortunately for Mitzna, if a week is a long time in politics, in Israeli politics it's an eon.

Indeed, the Mitzna camp was eagerly awaiting a Monday press conference where legislator Haim Ramon was expected to announce that he was withdrawing from the race. That would have all but sealed Mitzna's victory over incumbent Benjamin Ben-Eliezer.

Yet Ramon surprised everyone by announcing he would fight on until the bitter end. Pulling out now, pundits explained, would probably have spelled the end of Ramon's political career.

Ramon's perseverance means that both Mitzna and Ben-Eliezer may fail to get the minimum 40 percent support required to win outright in the first round. That would set up a runoff between the two leading candidates a week later.

Though Mitzna and Ramon are seen as more dovish than Ben-Eliezer, the three stand for many of the same things. The soft-spoken Mitzna, 57, was born on Kibbutz Dovrat to German immigrant parents and grew up in the Haifa suburb of Kiryat Haim.

At 15 he entered a prestigious army boarding school in Haifa, a year behind such luminaries as Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, who later became the Israeli army chief of staff and a Cabinet minister, and Matan Vilnai, a former deputy chief of staff and Labor Party Cabinet minister who today is one of Mitzna's major supporters.

One of the most noteworthy points of Mitzna's army career was his clash with then-Defense Minister Ariel Sharon during the 1982 Lebanon War.

Sharon had taken much of the blame after Israel's Lebanese Christian allies massacred Palestinians in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps. When Mitzna heard Sharon defending himself by saying that similar things had happened before, he resigned in protest, and retracted it only under urging from Prime Minister Menachem Begin.

Mitzna received a medal for exemplary conduct for his coolness under fire in the 1967 Six-Day War: As his tank battalion approached its objective in Gaza, the commander's head was blown off by an Egyptian shell. Mitzna, then just 22, covered the body with a map of the Sinai peninsula and conducted the battle himself.

He received another medal for bravery in the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

When the first Palestinian intifada erupted in December 1987, Mitzna — by now a major general — was in the hot seat as head of Central Command, responsible for the West Bank. His decision two years later to take a temporary leave from the army to study at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government was seen by then-Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin as tantamount to defection in the midst of battle.

Within a year of leaving the army in 1993, Mitzna was elected mayor of Haifa, Israel's third largest city. He presents his tenure in Haifa as a model for the country as a whole: During that time the city has absorbed 70,000 new immigrants, its 350,000 Jewish and 70,000 Arab residents live in relative harmony and, despite the national economic slowdown, its development has been unprecedented.

Much of Mitzna's attraction for Labor Party voters stems from his low-key personality and his professed dedication to a new, cleaner style of politics. Yet on the

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Ex-P.A. minister blasts Arafat

The former Palestinian interior minister attacked what he called the corruption of Palestinian Authority security forces in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In an interview with the *Toronto Globe and Mail*, Abdel Razak Yehiyeh said he had been overruled by Yasser Arafat when he tried to remove several commanders who had participated in terrorist attacks on Israelis.

### Report: U.S. draws up guidelines

The United States has reportedly drawn up guidelines for Israel's retaliation for Sunday's deadly attack on a kibbutz.

According to the Israeli daily *Ha'aretz*, which cited senior Israeli military officials, the guidelines say Israel must not expel Yasser Arafat or besiege his Ramallah headquarters. Israel must also avoid operations that will create additional hardships for the Palestinian civilian population, the paper said.

### P.A. lawmakers accuse Arafat

Palestinian lawmakers reportedly accused Yasser Arafat of forming a "shadow Cabinet" that is functioning alongside the new one he recently announced. According to the *Jerusalem Post*, some of the ministers reportedly ousted from the former government have been allowed to stay in their ministries.

But the ministries are now called authorities, while the ministers have retained their titles, the paper said.

### Tourism to Israel increases

The number of tourists visiting Israel in recent months has increased, according to the Central Bureau of Statistics. According to figures published Tuesday, there has been a 2.5 percent increase since May, with approximately 65,000 tourists entering monthly, *Israel Radio* reported.

socioeconomic issues facing Israel, all three candidates have similar positions: A readiness to talk with the Palestinians and, if that proves impossible, to withdraw unilaterally from most of the West Bank to more defensible lines; on the economy, less spending on Jewish settlements in the West Bank and more on retirees, students and poor development towns.

There are nuanced differences in their approaches to the Palestinians, however. Mitzna would be willing to negotiate with any Palestinian leader, including Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat; Ben-Eliezer was one of the first Labor politicians to say that Arafat had exhausted his role as Palestinian leader and should be bypassed in favor of more serious interlocutors; and Ramon doesn't believe any Palestinian leader, even a new one, would be willing right now to make peace with Israel.

Mitzna's most obvious weak point is his inexperience in national politics, which both Ben-Eliezer and Ramon have been remorselessly targeting.

Ben-Eliezer says inexperience was former Prime Minister Ehud Barak's undoing, and that Mitzna doesn't have anything like Barak's brain, only his political inexperience. Ramon calls the idea of Mitzna as national savior an illusion.

Ben-Eliezer, 66, a blunt, Falstaffian character, was born into a family of well-to-do merchants in the Iraqi city of Basra. At age 13, he was spirited to Israel through Iran.

Three years later, when Ben-Eliezer's family arrived penniless, he moved with them to a transit camp near Netanya. The young Ben-Eliezer and his father worked as laborers in nearby factories.

"Everything I have achieved, I have achieved on my own," Ben-Eliezer says proudly. "I am a totally self-made man."

Drafted into the army in 1954, Ben-Eliezer rose through the ranks to become commander of an elite commando unit, military governor and coordinator of government activities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and commander in southern Lebanon.

Because of Ben-Eliezer's experience with the Palestinians and his fluency in Arabic, Rabin sent him on a secret mission to Tunis in 1993 to test whether Arafat was ready for reconciliation with Israel. Ben-Eliezer came back saying that he was.

Ben-Eliezer started his political career in the early 1980s in the Sephardi Tami Party, only joining Labor with Weizman in the mid-1980s. By 1992 Ben-Eliezer was in charge of Labor's membership drive, which he used to build a formidable power base. Last year he defeated Knesset Speaker Avraham Burg for the party leadership.

His opponents charge that as defense minister in Sharon's unity government, Ben-Eliezer merely carried out the prime minister's policies and never tried to present an alternative Labor Party peace plan.

"Sharon was the chef, and Ben-Eliezer merely the cook's helper," Ramon says.

Ramon, 52, by far the most forceful orator of the three, was born into a poor Eastern European family in Jaffa and entered politics in the Labor party's youth wing before qualifying as a lawyer.

A Knesset member at age 33, Ramon was soon identified as one of the party's young stars. A group of eight young Knesset members, including Burg and Yossi Beilin, coalesced around the charismatic Ramon, who was marked as the heir apparent to Labor's leadership after the Rabin-Peres era.

But Ramon made a series of bold political moves that cost him dearly in the party. He formed a list of his own to win control of the Histadrut Trade Union from Labor, and proceeded to sell off the bloated federation's assets. Labor stalwarts accused Ramon of destroying one of the party's most important power bases.

As health minister, Ramon also drafted an unpopular health bill and, in 1996, ineptly ran Shimon Peres' losing prime ministerial campaign against Benjamin Netanyahu. His ensuing unpopularity caused Ramon to pass up a run for the Labor leadership against Ehud Barak in 1997, and in the 2001 race between Burg and Ben-Eliezer, Ramon was criticized for failing to support his friend Burg.

Ramon was persuaded to run this time to stop Ben-Eliezer. Now, by staying in the race and not transferring his allegiance to Mitzna — as most of his supporters have advised him to do — Ramon could, ironically, save Ben-Eliezer's skin.

As the incumbent, Ben-Eliezer controls the party machine, which is worth a few percentage points on election day. With Ramon still in the race and taking votes from Mitzna, that might just be enough to prevent the Haifa mayor from winning. □

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



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## JEWISH WORLD

### Dueling divestment petitions

Columbia University's president blasted a faculty-sponsored petition calling on the school to divest from companies that do business with Israel.

"The petition alleges human rights abuses and compares Israel to South Africa at the time of apartheid, an analogy I believe is both grotesque and offensive," Lee Bollinger said in a statement. "I want to state clearly that I will not lend any support to this proposal."

Bollinger's statement comes as two opposing petitions are competing for the support of the Columbia community, according to The New York Jewish Week.

One petition, which has gained about 400 signatures on its Web site, calls on Columbia to use its financial and political influence to lobby the U.S. government to suspend aid to Israel. However, a counterpetition launched last week by pro-Israel forces has gained more than 5,000 signatures, the paper reported.

### ADL blasts Egyptian TV show

The Anti-Defamation League urged the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights to criticize Egypt's leaders for contributing to the spread of anti-Semitism.

The ADL sent a letter to the commissioner after an anti-Semitic TV series, "Horseman Without a Horse," began airing in Egypt and elsewhere in the Middle East this month. The Egyptian production is a "very troubling manifestation of anti-Jewish incitement," the ADL said.

The program is the latest in a "sustained pattern" of anti-Semitic and anti-Israel incitement in government-sponsored Egyptian media, the letter added.

### Exhibit shows Einstein's Zionism

An exhibit on Albert Einstein explores his connection to Judaism and Israel.

In addition to depicting Einstein's scientific discoveries, the exhibit that opens Friday at the American Museum of Natural History in New York uses material from Einstein's archives at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem to highlight Einstein's attachment to Zionism and the Jewish people.

Einstein, who came to the United States from Germany, was instrumental in the founding of Hebrew University in 1925 and referred to himself as a "deeply religious nonbeliever."

The exhibit, organized by the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles, as well as the Museum of Natural History and Hebrew University, will travel to other museums, including the Skirball museum and the Bloomfield Science Museum in Jerusalem.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES

### Jewish groups reverse course to weigh in on judicial selection

By Sharon Samber

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Here come the judges — and with them the ideological and political battles expected to shape the incoming 108th Congress.

When the Republicans take control of the Senate, many of President Bush's judicial nominees to the federal bench that were held up under the Democrats are likely to get the green light. For their part, Democrats, now reduced to the minority, will be struggling to keep conservative voices off the bench.

The outcome could have a profound effect on social and political policies, affecting everything from abortion rights to church-state issues.

For this reason, several Jewish groups are delving into the judicial selection process, an area from which they have traditionally shied away.

But while liberal groups are publicly opposing nominees they think could hurt their causes, conservative and Orthodox groups are hoping the nominees get swift approval.

Sammie Moshenberg, director of the Washington office of the National Council of Jewish Women, said people need to know what's at stake.

Stacking the court with "right-wing ideologues" will bring about much more long-lasting policy and societal changes than is possible with legislation, she said.

The effects of the nominations will be felt in a long-term way, Moshenberg said, because the appointments are lifetime appointments.

Her group has launched what it has termed a "benchmark" campaign to educate and mobilize its members and the Jewish community to "promote a federal bench with judges that support fundamental freedoms, including a woman's right to choose."

The group, which launched the effort early this year, before the Republicans swept Congress in last week's elections, has its own Web site devoted to the cause ([www.benchmarkcampaign.org](http://www.benchmarkcampaign.org)) and is sponsoring spokeswomen at forums around the country to speak out on the issue.

Moshenberg said she fears that the issue of judicial appointments "is not on the Jewish community's radar screen to the extent that it should be."

Most Jewish groups have been — and continue to be — reluctant to enter the fray to play the partisan politics game on nominations. Their practice is not to endorse or oppose nominees during the confirmation process.

But the high stakes and the increasingly politicized process have compelled several groups to weigh in.

"It's become increasingly clear that a range of core ADL issues — such as racial harassment and intimidation and church-state separation — are being asked at the appellate level," said Rosina Abramson, civil rights director for the Anti-Defamation League.

But Jewish groups are not monolithic.

For example, the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, the ADL and the Orthodox Union all wrote letters to the Senate Judiciary Committee about the nomination of Michael McConnell to the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals, which is based in Denver.

The RAC and ADL called into question McConnell's opposition to reproductive freedom and gay and lesbian rights and disagreed with him on religious liberty issues.

But the O.U. called McConnell, a law professor at the University of Utah College of Law, "one of the leading champions of religious liberty."

Indeed, Orthodox groups are more likely to side with Bush's conservative choices for the federal bench. And some church-state issues, which often split the Jewish community, highlight differences of opinions among Jewish groups.

McConnell, whose positions are known from previous testimony and articles, supported permitting all kinds of after-school clubs to meet on school premises during after-school hours, including religious after-school clubs. That position was supported by a Supreme Court decision last year.

While the O.U. supported that position, the ADL objected on the grounds of church-state separation. □

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES****New Senate chairmen could advance or stall Jewish agenda**

By Matthew E. Berger

WASHINGTON (JTA) — A Republican Senate means Republican committee chairmen, and for many Jewish organizational leaders, a step backward toward more defensive lobbying tactics.

Jewish lobbyists say that when the Republicans take control of the full Congress in January, they will need to respond more to legislation they oppose rather than help craft laws that fit with their priorities.

They say they will need to work hard to remove elements of some measures that are seen as too conservative, such as those related to charitable choice, which allows federal funds to religious organizations to provide social services.

And they will work with lawmakers to construct measures that address their agenda, such as hate crimes legislation.

Still, many are holding out hope that there will be wiggle room to get some items on their agenda through the 108th Congress.

"It's a mixed bag," said Reva Price, Washington representative for the Jewish Council for Public Affairs.

"I see that, by and large, these are all people we can work with."

Among the people expected to head key committees are: Sen. Judd Gregg (R-N.H.), who will chair the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pension Committee; Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), who takes over the Senate Judiciary Committee; and Sen. Ted Stevens (R-Alaska), who will head the Senate Appropriations Committee.

On foreign issues, where Jewish leaders say the debates are often more bipartisan, the Senate Armed Services Committee will now be chaired by Sen. John Warner (R-Va.) and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will be manned once again by Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Ind.), who first chaired it in 1985 and 1986.

Jewish groups say their relationship with Gregg will be important in the next Congress.

His committee is expected to take up school voucher issues, which most Jewish organizations oppose, and will likely shape the debate on prescription drugs and Social Security privatization.

Jewish activists say they have worked with Gregg on several issues, and have had a running dialogue with his staffers over the Workplace Religious Freedom Act.

The legislation would strengthen federal civil rights laws by requiring employers to grant employees greater accommodation for religious observances, such as taking time off for religious holidays and wearing religious garb.

"My sense was that they were not, in principle, opposed to it, but there were issues he wanted to get worked out," one Jewish official said of the legislation that has long been a top legislative priority for Orthodox groups and is supported by most Jewish groups.

However, the community is more divided on the contentious issue of vouchers, which provides federal funds for students to attend private or parochial schools.

Many said they believe Gregg will push for some type of voucher program. Gregg's position was strengthened by a Supreme Court decision earlier this year that deemed school vouchers constitutional.

Leaders of many Jewish groups that oppose vouchers say they understand their position is at odds with Gregg's and they will need to work to try and prevent the legislation from being passed in the full committee.

But Orthodox officials support Gregg's stance.

David Zweibel, executive vice president for government and public affairs at Agudath Israel of America, said the Orthodox community would work with Gregg to expand the federal special education law to broaden the use of vouchers for special education children.

Gregg supports the use of vouchers for private schools if the public school is not suitable for them.

"We have a lot of problems with the existing law for children enrolled in non-public schools," Zweibel said.

Washington lobbyists say Gregg has a unique personality that they will have to work with.

"He's very territorial," one lobbyist said. "He's got a formula and you have to be very careful."

It will be a big transition from Gregg's predecessor, Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), with whom Jewish leaders had a very strong working relationship.

On judiciary issues, Jewish leaders are gearing up for a flood of new judicial appointments that are expected now that Hatch is chair.

While his predecessor, Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), stalled several nominations that were deemed too conservative, Hatch had been a vocal opponent of that policy and is expected to lead the charge toward swift approval of new conservative judges.

Zweibel said he has always found Hatch to be sympathetic to the Jewish community — the Mormon senator wears a mezuzah around his neck for good luck — and he hoped that the logjam of judicial nominations would be eased under Hatch's leadership.

The major judiciary policy debate is expected to revolve around the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, which stalled in the Senate last year and would provide hate crime protections that Jewish groups have been seeking.

Hatch has "made impassioned speeches" about the need for hate crimes laws and does not join other conservative Republicans in opposing provisions against discrimination based on sexual orientation, said Michael Lieberman, Washington counsel for the Anti-Defamation League.

But Hatch is a vocal opponent of the bill on the grounds that it takes away states rights and because he fears that rapes and other attacks against women would all be classified as hate crimes, Lieberman said.

"It's going to require some creative negotiating with Chairman Hatch," Lieberman said. "There may be a way to move a bill which is attentive to his concerns."

Hatch is also a vocal opponent of abortion, and there may be movement to restrict a woman's access to abortion, through bills targeting late-term abortions or seeking parental notification.

A constitutional amendment overturning *Roe v. Wade*, which protects a woman's right to an abortion, is not expected.

Jewish activists are less concerned with Stevens, who will be the Senate's chief appropriator.

Stevens is viewed as being as receptive to concerns from the Jewish community as was his Democratic predecessor, Sen. Robert Byrd (D-W.Va.).

He is also considered a strong supporter of foreign aid to Israel, which falls within the purview of his committee. □