



# Daily News Bulletin

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85th Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### **Saudis blame 'Zionist lobby'**

Charges that a Saudi diplomat's wife gave money to the Sept. 11 terrorists are part of a Zionist conspiracy, according to a Saudi newspaper. Saudi media, which reflect government positions, reacted angrily to the charges on Monday.

"The latest campaign by the Zionist lobby in America will fail and will not affect the kingdom or its stances and will not affect the strength of ties with the United States," an editorial in the daily al-Watan said.

In its editorial, the daily al-Riyadh said "American foxes" are behind the charges, designed to win Saudi Arabian support for a possible U.S. war against Iraq.

### **Homeland Security Dept. created**

The newly created U.S. Homeland Security Department will include an office of international affairs to coordinate security measures with foreign countries, including Israel.

The office will coordinate information exchanges, joint training exercises and technology sharing with friendly nations.

Israeli officials met frequently with lawmakers during the past year to ensure that the international affairs office would be part of the new department.

Tom Ridge, currently the director of the White House's Office of Homeland Security, has been nominated to head the new department.

### **Germany confirms missile request**

German officials confirmed a report that Israel had asked Germany to provide it with Patriot missiles.

Germany's Defense Ministry said Monday that Israel sought the missiles to help defend against an Iraqi missile attack if the United States attacks Baghdad.

The ministry said it was studying the Israeli request, but gave no further details. Earlier this week, German Defense Minister Peter Struck denied a report that Washington had asked Germany for Patriot missiles to help defend Israel or Turkey.

Because of the Thanksgiving holiday in the U.S., the JTA DAILY NEWS BULLETIN will not be published Friday, Nov. 29.

## **Federations grapple with relations between local and national system**

*By Rachel Pomerance*

NEW YORK (JTA) — An undercurrent of tension pervaded last week's annual gathering of the North American federation system over the relationship between local federations and the national system.

Beyond the workshops and plenaries in Philadelphia that drew some 4,000 people to address topics of Jewish concern, delegates grappled with the resistance of some member federations to comply with the financial directives from the national system.

Many federation leaders call the tension a growing pain for the United Jewish Communities, the three-year-old umbrella group of North American federations.

"We are approaching a fork in the road in the maturation of the UJC," said John Ruskay, CEO of the UJA-Federation of New York.

"Will it be a network of federations where there are expectations about financial participation that we have collectively agreed to, or will we be a decentralized system in which federations participate at will in each national project?" he asked.

Which path is taken could determine whether the national system holds together or falls apart under the weight of conflicting needs and priorities.

The UJC, a merger of the Council of Jewish Federations, the United Jewish Appeal and the United Israel Appeal, has weathered a series of logistical and leadership challenges. The organization was created to help streamline the Jewish community's central fund-raising and social service agency into one that was more responsive to local federations' needs while effectively directing dollars abroad for overseas needs.

And it was intended to stave off the trend of disenchanting federations, by making them the owners of the new system, said UJC's president and CEO, Stephen Hoffman.

But the disenchantment among some has persisted, centered mostly on the question of whether federations should be required to contribute their share to keep the national system going.

The issue of noncompliance by federations to contribute to a variety of things — from UJC dues to Birthright Israel — permeated the gathering, known as the General Assembly. The issue culminated in a discussion of a resolution to oust federations that do not pay their dues.

The resolution, approved by the Board of Trustees in June, was conceived after Jewish federations in Tidewater, Va., and San Francisco questioned their payments.

Federation members, who discussed the issue last Friday at the Delegate Assembly, which represents all the federations, are expected to vote on the resolution by conference call within the next 30 days. But Hoffman downplayed the issue of dues compliance and other acts by the federations.

Until the creation of the UJC, "the actual costs of running the national system weren't fully understood by most folks. Today, everything's transparent," Hoffman said, referring to an itemized bill federations receive for UJC's costs for administrative and overseas needs.

"That, in part, is what just stimulates the whole discussion."

The controversy has been further exacerbated by a new dues formula implemented July 1, officials say. The formula is based on the ratio of each federation's annual campaign to the total campaign, rather than a formula based on both local Jewish population and its campaign.

Hoffman said the dues issue is the only one in dispute that requires compliance. And San Francisco has now agreed to pay its portion, he added. Other contribu-

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Palestinian boy killed in Nablus

Israeli soldiers shot and killed a Palestinian boy in Nablus they said was throwing homemade bombs at soldiers.

Palestinian sources countered that the 8-year-old was part of a group of children throwing rocks at army jeeps. Monday's incident occurred as hundreds of youths ignored a curfew and confronted soldiers.

### Army moves outside Bethlehem

Israel's army withdrew Monday to the outskirts of Bethlehem.

When Palestinian residents of Bethlehem ventured out of their homes, however, Israeli officials sent them back home, saying there had been no formal withdrawal and the curfew was still in place.

### Palestinian exile leaves Cyprus

The last of 13 Palestinians deported to Cyprus earlier this year was escorted Monday to an unspecified country. Cyprus' foreign minister said Abdullah Daoud was sent to "a distant, non-European country" where he would be joined by his family.

The 13 were deported to Cyprus in May under a deal that ended a five-week Israeli siege of Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity. Soon after that, 12 of them boarded Italian and Spanish planes in Larnaca and flew to their designated European host countries.

Daoud, head of the Palestinian intelligence service in Bethlehem, had to wait in Cyprus until a host country could be found.

### Report: Informal talks held

A leading Israeli dove and a Palestinian official reportedly are trying to draft a peace agreement. Yossi Beilin and Yasser Abed Rabbo have been meeting in an effort to initial an unofficial final-status agreement at a ceremony in Europe next month, according to Israel Radio, which cited a senior Palestinian official.

tions from local federations are based on a "best-faith" effort — and nonparticipation by some federations has always plagued the system, he said.

"I believe it's actually better today than it's ever been. But we had this ideal vision that if the federations were going to vote on something, that they would all come through, and it's not happening in exactly that way, so the challenge is how to get us closer to the ideal."

Some federations are still clearly choosing to go their own way. These issues surfaced at several points during the G.A.:

- At a meeting of the National Funding Councils, a body of 45 federations that helps to fund nine national agencies like Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life, JTA and the Jewish Community Centers Association, four federations declared that they would not pay their portion for the remainder of the year, a total amount of \$41,000.

The National Funding Councils will dip into reserve funding to make up for the shortfall, officials say, but the same federations have agreed to replenish the reserves.

It was the first time members of the National Funding Councils unilaterally withdrew pre-designated funding.

- Noncompliance also struck the Board of Trustees meeting on Nov. 20 over a discussion of overdue payments to Birthright Israel. Officers discussed a proposal to pay the UJC's unfulfilled portion of the program that sends 18- to 26-year-olds who have never been to Israel on an organized trip.

The five-year program was conceived as a \$210 million partnership among the Israeli government, several philanthropists, the UJC and world Jewry. The UJC initially committed to \$39 million over five years. The proposal would reduce UJC's portion to \$23 million, and ask the Jewish Agency for Israel to pay the balance.

- Several member federations have not implemented the second year of the Israel Emergency Campaign, despite the fact that the UJC passed a resolution calling on the federations to do so.

- Federations are increasingly falling short on what they are being asked to pay for overseas needs.

In the first two years of the UJC, the committee that funds those needs, the Overseas Needs Allocation and Distribution, known as ONAD, saw an increase in allocations. But it still fell short of its goal for funding its overseas partners, including the Jewish Agency and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

And it "will fall significantly short" this year, according to the national G.A. chair, Richard Wexler.

The Israel Emergency Campaign, which has tallied \$326 million to date, is separate from the ONAD process.

For those federations resisting their financial obligations, it is often a matter of juggling tight budgets. At last Friday's meeting of the Delegates Assembly, several conveyed that sentiment.

A representative from the Raleigh-Cary Jewish Federation in North Carolina captured both the impact of lean budgets and dissatisfaction with the system in his blunt comment: "We want more and we want to pay less."

But many federation leaders echo Hoffman's distinction between compliance on dues and other areas.

It's the "difference between a speed limit and a caution sign," David Mallach, assistant executive vice president of the United Jewish Communities of Metrowest New Jersey, said, referring to paying dues and implementing the second year of the Israel Emergency Campaign.

But Mallach thinks the UJC is strong. Referring to the Israel Emergency Campaign, he said, "If people didn't trust the system, they wouldn't have turned over their IEC campaign dollars."

Others see a more threatening pattern.

"I think one has to be able to connect the dots and see there is a growing issue and that it's UJC's responsibility to engage on a 24-7 basis with the federations," Wexler said. "We're at a point where with engagement and with consulting and dialogue, that UJC can emerge from this stronger. Without it, this will spread and that will pull the underpinnings out from a strong national system." □



## Daily News Bulletin

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## JEWISH WORLD

### Swiss reject anti-refugee plan

Swiss voters narrowly rejected a proposal that would have virtually shut the nation's borders to refugees.

By a margin of about 3,400 votes in Sunday's referendum, the electorate turned down the proposal by the Swiss People's Party "against abuse of the right to asylum."

The proposal was introduced amid growing anti-immigration sentiment across Europe. Despite the vote outcome, the party's far-right leader, Christoph Blocher, sounded a triumphant note.

"We were on our own against the Cabinet, all the other parties, against the media — and yet we finally only lost by a handful of votes," he told the Geneva-based *Le Temps* newspaper.

The People's Party won 15 seats in the 1999 elections for Parliament, and it is now the second-largest party behind the Social Democrats. Blocher is expected to seek a Cabinet seat after next year's elections. In past years, Blocher frequently accused Jewish groups of blackmail when Swiss banks were pressed to settle a variety of Holocaust-related claims.

### Court allows Sabbath boundary

A U.S. court rejected a petition to rehear a case about a Sabbath boundary in Tenafly, N.J.

Last week's decision upheld a ruling that allowed the boundary, or *eruv*, to be created, the *New Jersey Jewish News* reported.

According to Jewish tradition, an *eruv* establishes a perimeter within which observant Jews can carry objects on the Sabbath.

### Evangelicals donate money

A televangelist donated \$1.5 million for Israel-related causes to the United Jewish Communities. John Hagee made the donation to Stephen Hoffman, UJC's CEO, on Sunday night at the Cornerstone Church in San Antonio, the *Jewish Journal of San Antonio* reported.

"If a line has to be drawn, draw the line around both Christians and Jews," Hagee told 5,000 parishioners and millions of satellite television viewers. "We are one. We are united. We are indivisible."

Rep. Tom DeLay (R-Texas) was the keynote speaker at the church's 22nd "Night to Honor Israel."

### Shuls to remember MIAs

Orthodox synagogues across the United States plan to hold a "Shabbat of Remembrance" this weekend for Israeli MIAs.

The Orthodox Union's Institute for Public Affairs is sponsoring the initiative to draw attention to the plight of the MIAs, some of whom have not been heard from in more than 20 years.

## Austrian far-right party trounced, but could still assume coalition role

By Toby Axelrod

BERLIN (JTA) — Austrian far-right leader Jorg Haider has announced his retirement from politics, but Austria-watchers may want to hold their applause.

Haider made the announcement Monday, a day after his Freedom Party suffered a crushing defeat in national elections that gave a clear victory to the conservative People's Party.

After the Freedom Party won only 10 percent of the vote — a drop of almost 17 points from the party's record showing in 1999 — Haider said he would resign as governor of Austria's Carinthia province.

It was not clear, however, whether Haider's announcement was genuine or a ploy to get his party to rally around him. Haider has "resigned" the party leadership several times before.

Early elections were called recently after Haider triggered a coalition crisis by retaking control of the party he led for 15 years.

Jewish groups in Austria and abroad long have kept a wary eye on Haider, who has sought a base of support — particularly among disaffected Austrian youths — with a xenophobic stance laced at times with a heavy dose of anti-Semitism.

Several years ago, Haider praised Hitler's "decent employment policies" and described Nazi Waffen SS troops as "men of character." He later apologized for the remarks.

Jewish observers are not the only ones concerned by Haider's past political successes.

The European Union introduced political sanctions against Austria when Haider's far-right Freedom Party entered the country's governing coalition in February 2000.

The sanctions were dropped in September 2000 after an E.U. panel said Austria had not abandoned its commitment to human rights.

Haider resigned that year as head of the Freedom Party, but remained its dominant figure.

Chancellor Wolfgang Schuessel called early elections several months ago after infighting within the Freedom Party left Haider and his far-right wing in control of the party.

Haider raised eyebrows in early November by making his second visit to Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein in recent months. At the time, Haider said he saw great potential for economic relations between Iraq and Austria.

If Haider's visit was calculated to win more votes for his party, it failed badly.

Following Sunday's vote, the number of Freedom Party seats in the Austrian National Assembly will drop from 42 to 19.

Israel Singer, chairman of the World Jewish Congress, welcomed the outcome.

"The most important result of the Austrian election is that extremism, racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism were clearly trounced," he said.

Analysts said the major beneficiary of defections from the Freedom Party was Schuessel's People's Party, which received 42 percent of the vote, up from 27 percent in 1999.

The left-of-center Social Democrats, traditionally Austria's biggest party, took second place with 37 percent.

The Greens won only 9 percent.

Observers across Europe saw the results as a clear mandate for the center-right.

But despite the Freedom Party's setback, Schuessel may again ask them to join his coalition.

Schuessel is now weighing his choices for a coalition partner. Because of his party's strong showing on Sunday, he has more choices this time than in 1999.

Many observers said it was unlikely that Schuessel would invite the Social Democrats into his next government.

This would leave the Freedom Party in a good position — especially if Haider sticks to his resignation announcement or, as he did in 2000, assumes a behind-the-scenes role in the party. □

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES

**N.J. residents try to move on after rabbi is convicted of murder**

By Marilyn Silverstein  
New Jersey Jewish News

WHIPPANY, N.J. (JTA) — The guilty verdict rendered in the second murder trial of Rabbi Fred Neulander is an opportunity for closure and whatever mourning needs to be done.

Such is the view of Dan Gottlieb, a family therapist and longtime radio host in the Philadelphia area.

"This was a man who did wonderful things, and he was a man who did terrible things," Gottlieb said.

"In his life, he's helped many people immeasurably, and he's hurt many people irrevocably," said Gottlieb, a member of Congregation M'kor Shalom in Cherry Hill, N.J., the Reform congregation where Neulander once served as spiritual leader.

"Now, he's paying the price for what he did," Gottlieb said of the rabbi who will be sentenced to a minimum of 30 years in prison.

Neulander's case was believed to mark the first time in American Jewish life that a rabbi faced trial for murder.

"I think, as a community, we need to feel gratitude for what he did and grief for what he did," Gottlieb said.

The grief for what Neulander did began on the night of Nov. 1, 1994, when his wife, Carol, 52, was found lying dead in a pool of blood on the living room floor of the family home in Cherry Hill. She had been brutally bludgeoned to death.

Camden County Assistant Prosecutor James Lynch later described the slaying as a classic case of murder for hire, charging that Neulander had paid confessed killers Len Jenoff and Paul Michael Daniels to murder his wife so that he could freely carry on his love affair with former Philadelphia radio personality Elaine Soncini. Neulander's first trial on the murder charges ended in a hung jury.

But on Nov. 20, eight years and 19 days after the brutal murder of his wife, the 61-year-old Reform rabbi, founder of the 1,000-family M'kor Shalom, was found guilty on all counts for which he had been indicted and tried — capital murder, felony murder and conspiracy to commit murder.

Last Friday, Neulander, following a sermon-like appeal to spare his life, was spared the death penalty after the jury was unable to reach a unanimous verdict on the death penalty, as required under New Jersey law.

For Rabbi Richard Levine, who was a friend of Fred and Carol Neulander's, it will not be so easy to cast the Neulander case aside.

"I don't think it's any closure, really," said Levine, longtime religious leader of the Reform congregation Aduvath Emanu-El in Mount Laurel, N.J.

"What kind of closure? That he's guilty? It's one of those things like a game where there's no winner. Will there be closure? I'm sure for some people there will be. But I don't know what closure really means."

When he thinks of his friends Fred and Carol Neulander, said Levine, he simply feels very sorry.

"I'm sorry for the waste of two very talented human beings," he said. "It's a shame. There's really no winner."

The verdict came at 3:30 p.m. on Nov. 20, some 27 hours after the jury of seven men and five women had begun deliberating.

"The court has received a note. The jury has reached a ver-

dict," Camden County Superior Court Judge Linda Baxter said as she convened her courtroom in Freehold, N.J. "The verdict should be treated with silence."

As each member of the jury recited the guilty verdict in turn, Neulander stood unmoving and seemingly unmoved — his face fixed in the same inscrutable stare that had marked his demeanor throughout most of the four-week trial.

But others were gripped by emotion. Two young women on the jury, their faces etched with the emotion of the moment, clutched each other's hands as the verdict was recited.

Carol Neulander's brother Robert Lidz and his wife, Barbara, also tightly held hands, and her sister Margaret Miele and brother Edward Lidz wiped away tears.

Across the courtroom aisle, Philadelphia Inquirer reporter Nancy Phillips broke into silent, uncontrollable sobs.

As she covered the case over the years, Phillips, who is Jewish, had cultivated Len Jenoff as a source. Jenoff, who had been posing as the rabbi's private investigator, confessed to Phillips that he was instead the rabbi's hit man, and she had been instrumental in convincing him to come forward and confess his role in the crime to investigators from the Camden County Prosecutor's Office.

In his closing statement to the jury on Nov. 14, Lynch had quoted from Abraham Lincoln's first inaugural address: "Why should we not await, with quiet confidence, the ultimate justice of the people?"

As he left a brief news conference following the verdict, Lynch was overheard saying to Carol Neulander's family, "Good result; good result."

At a separate news conference, defense attorney Michael Riley described himself as "disappointed with the result. Beyond that," he said, "there's not much that I can say."

And as for the rabbi? "He's obviously disappointed," the attorney said, referring to his client as "a very courageous, strong man."

Two days after the guilty verdict was announced, the jury that had convicted Neulander ended its deliberations in the penalty phase, announcing that it was unable to reach a unanimous verdict on the death penalty. Under New Jersey law, Neulander must serve a term of at least 30 years in prison with no possibility of parole.

In the wake of the verdict in the Neulander trial, the leaders of M'kor Shalom issued a formal statement: "We have emphasized throughout this ordeal our embrace of both justice and compassion, as reflected in the great biblical teaching of the prophet Micah, 'to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God' and of Deuteronomy, 'Justice, justice shall you pursue.'"

"We also recognized that our American legal code requires that an accused be presumed innocent unless and until found guilty by a jury of one's peers. Now a jury has spoken with one voice. As a congregation that respects the rule of law, we accept its verdict.

"Our hope and prayer is that all those touched by this tragedy will now begin to know some measure of the healing peace we call shalom."

On the evening the verdict was issued, members of M'kor Shalom reached out for that healing peace during a prayer service.

Kim Fendrick, a member of the congregation and a clinical social worker, was on hand. The Neulander case is sad for the Jews, but not only for the Jews, Fendrick said.

"It's a tragedy, and it's not only a tragedy for any particular faith. It's a tragedy in general," she said. "It's sad for us, but I think it's a sad event in human events." □