



# Daily News Bulletin

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## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### U.S.: Al-Qaida linked to attack

U.S. officials believe they have evidence that last week's failed missile attack on an Israeli airplane taking off from Kenya was the work of Al-Qaida.

Two missile launchers recovered after the Nov. 28 attack are from the same production batch as one used by an Al-Qaida operative who tried to down a U.S. military plane in Saudi Arabia in May, the officials said Monday.

"It certainly points toward a possible Al-Qaida link," one official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told The Associated Press.

### Palestinian teen killed in Jenin

Israeli soldiers shot and killed a Palestinian teenager during a gun battle Monday in the West Bank city of Jenin. The 15-year-old boy was killed after he climbed atop an armored vehicle, the army said, adding that soldiers were worried he was carrying a bomb.

Sixteen other Palestinians were injured when clashes erupted after soldiers arrived to enforce a curfew.

The soldiers left Jenin after arresting two men described as senior members of Islamic Jihad.

### Palestinian gunman attacks post

Israeli troops killed a Palestinian gunman who posed as an Israeli soldier and attacked an army post Monday in the Gaza Strip. Soldiers opened fired after the gunman shot at them, the army said.

One soldier was lightly wounded in the clash. Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for the assault near the Netzarim settlement, saying it was avenging an Israeli attempt to kill one of its commanders a day earlier.

### Mofaz to visit Washington

Israel's defense minister plans to visit Washington in two weeks. Shaul Mofaz is slated to meet with Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and is planning meetings with State Department and National Security Council officials, according to the Israeli Embassy in Washington.

### Report: Greek anti-Semitism up

Anti-Semitism is on the rise in Greece, according to a new report. [Page 4]

## NEWS ANALYSIS

### Kenya attacks herald Israel's full-blown entry into war on terror

By Leslie Susser

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Nov. 28, 2002, may go down in history as Israel's Sept. 11.

Despite two years of relentless Palestinian terrorism that has claimed nearly 700 Israeli lives, last week's coordinated attacks on Israeli targets in Kenya are being seen as a watershed: They herald Israel's full-blown entry into the global war against terrorism, according to defense sources.

"Only" three Israelis died in a suicide bombing of an Israeli-owned hotel near Mombasa, and missiles fired at an Israeli passenger plane narrowly missed, causing no casualties.

But the potential for damage — had the missiles hit the plane, which was carrying 261 passengers and crew, or had the car bomb caused the entire hotel to collapse — was enormous.

As Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz noted, "The attacks should be judged by their intention, not their results."

In its planning and daring, the Kenya assault represents just the sort of mega-terror attack that Israeli officials long have feared.

Because they came against defenseless tourists in a distant and idyllic corner of the world, the attacks have made Israelis feel no place is safe.

Already hard-pressed to deal with Palestinian attacks in Israel, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, Israelis now face serious questions about how to defend themselves against dispersed terrorists without a clear return address — the same sort of questions, in short, that America has been grappling with since 9/11.

From now on, observers here say, things will never be the same.

The attacks have left Israelis "with a sense of claustrophobia, a feeling that there's no way out, no solution, no refuge," one diplomatic analyst wrote in the daily Ma'ariv newspaper. "Even going abroad is no longer the liberating respite it once was. They seek us here, there and everywhere, all the time. Fear is all there is."

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon put the Mossad in charge of investigating and responding to the attacks.

For some, this was reminiscent of Israel's use of the Mossad to track down and kill the Palestinian terrorists who killed Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics.

From now on, defense sources say, the Mossad will devote more resources and play a more active role in gathering intelligence and tracking the architects and proponents of global terror.

Moreover, it will do this alongside American, British and other major intelligence agencies.

This collaboration has important diplomatic implications for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict: International terror against Israeli civilians, in the name of Palestinian rights, may well lead the West to identify Israel's fight against Palestinian terrorism with the global war on terror.

From now on, defense sources say, Israeli arguments that Palestinian terrorism is part and parcel of the international jihad against the West may carry more weight.

Israel will be seen as on the "right side," while the Palestinians will be tied to the axis of evil.

In addition, they say, Israeli requests for American aid to offset the intifada's

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Terror evidence under dispute

Israeli and Kenyan officials are engaged in a tug of war over the evidence from last week's deadly terror attack at an Israeli-owned hotel in Mombasa. Kenyan officials said Israeli authorities want to take the evidence back to Israel. But they insist that the evidence remain in Kenya, saying it is their responsibility to handle it.

Israeli officials maintain that Kenya lacks the expertise to carry out the investigation. Kenyan officials publicly reprimanded the Israelis for their alleged rudeness.

### Army to demolish Hebron houses

Israel plans to demolish 15 Palestinian-owned properties along a route used by Jewish worshipers going to pray at Hebron's Tomb of the Patriarchs. The army plans to build walls along the corridor to protect Kiryat Arba settlers who use the route to reach the tomb and the Jewish section of Hebron.

The project was launched after Palestinian gunmen killed 12 Israelis in a Nov. 15 attack near the Tomb of the Patriarchs.

### IDF head clarifies statement

Israel's army chief of staff denied that he said most Israeli settlements would have to be dismantled as part of any peace accord with the Palestinians. According to Ha'aretz and Israel Radio, Lt. Gen. Moshe Ya'alon said during a closed-door address last week at Washington's Institute for Near East Policy that "at the end of the day, most of the settlements will be evacuated."

But on Monday, Ya'alon called the reports a "total misrepresentation of what I said." He said he had been discussing the situation two years ago, when Palestinian officials knew there was a "willingness to dismantle most of the settlements," but they still resorted to violence against Israel.

economic burden are likely to get a more sympathetic hearing.

In an Internet statement whose authenticity has not been confirmed, Al-Qaida claimed responsibility for the attacks, seemingly confirming Israeli suspicions that Osama bin Laden's terrorist network was behind the attacks.

Several days before the attacks, a "Letter to the American People," purportedly from Al-Qaida, was released on the Internet.

For the first time, the letter defined Israel as the main reason for Al-Qaida's terrorist attacks on America, and argued that American citizens were fair game because of America's support for Israel.

But the message seemed likely to backfire: By declaring in one breath that both Americans and Israelis were targets for terror, the organization seemed to be making the case for an Israeli-American alliance against common enemies.

It also might undermine those who have tried to argue that attacks on Israel are somehow legitimate because they are part of the Palestinians' war of independence, and are different from terror attacks on Western countries.

U.S. officials at first stepped back from Israeli assertions that Al-Qaida appeared responsible.

Now, though, the American government also believes the evidence points to Al-Qaida.

Two missile launchers recovered from the attack site are from the same production batch as one used by an Al-Qaida operative who tried to down a U.S. military plane in Saudi Arabia in May, the U.S. officials said Monday.

Israel's army chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Moshe Ya'alon, was quick to draw the connection between Al-Qaida and Palestinian terrorism.

Palestinians working as Al-Qaida operatives have been uncovered in the Palestinian territories, Ya'alon said. Moreover, he added, Al-Qaida recently has declared holy war against all "infidels," Christians and Jews alike, a statement that highlighted the cultural affinity between Israel and the West.

What defensive measures can Israel take against the new threat? One obvious need is greater intelligence gathering and access to more shared intelligence, so that Israelis abroad can be alerted to danger. There also is a need for more sophisticated protection of Israeli institutions abroad.

As for civilian aircraft, Rafael, the Israeli weapons development authority, claims to have developed a system to counteract the kind of heat-seeking missiles that were fired in Kenya.

In the event of an attack, the device, which would cost around \$2 million per plane, sends out a beam that diverts the oncoming missile.

With adequate financing, Rafael scientists say, the system could be fully operational in a few months.

Inside Israel, there has been a greater sense of urgency to improve defensive measures since an expose in the Yediot Achronot daily showed how vulnerable most Israeli airfields and helipads were to terrorists armed with rockets or shoulder-fired missiles.

Especially at risk, according to the expose, are the prime minister and defense minister, who use helicopters on an almost-daily basis.

Most observers believe the heightened sense of insecurity following the Kenya attacks will help Sharon and the right wing in the Jan. 28 elections.

The more insecure Israelis feel, the more wary they are of change and the more they may look to a father figure like Sharon for protection.

Though the campaign has barely gotten off the ground, Sharon is trying to draw a connection between terrorism and the Labor Party's more conciliatory policies toward the Palestinians, harping on the fact that Palestinian leaders express a clear preference for Labor leader Amram Mitzna.

When it comes to international terror, observers note, Mitzna has little to offer.

His panacea — separation from the Palestinians, with or without an agreement — may convince voters that it can work against Palestinian terrorism. But most observers say it seems woefully inadequate, not to say irrelevant, in the theater of international terror. □

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



## Daily News Bulletin

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## JEWISH WORLD

### High court OKs Cincy menorah

The U.S. Supreme Court allowed the Lubavitch movement to display a menorah in downtown Cincinnati. In a ruling issued last Friday just before the start of Chanukah, the high court upheld a lower court's ruling that city officials cannot block Chabad of Southern Ohio from displaying a menorah in Cincinnati's Fountain Square.

Lawyers for the city argued last week that allowing private organizations to erect unattended displays would make it difficult for the city to keep order in the square. But Chabad argued the ordinance violates the First Amendment guarantee of free speech. For years, the Lubavitch movement has erected large menorahs in Cincinnati and other cities around the world.

### Vandals hit British cemetery

Vandals spray-painted red swastikas on all the Jewish gravestones in a cemetery in Britain. Thirteen tombstones were desecrated in last week's attack in the British town of Milton Keynes, which is located near London.

Barry Norman, leader of the community, told JTA that the incident has "created a lot of distress, particularly among those whose loved ones are buried there." The graffiti was removed after the city council arranged to have the stones cleaned, Norman added.

### Berlin Jews laud foreign minister

Germany's foreign minister received an award from the Berlin Jewish community. Joschka Fischer reiterated German support for Israel at the Nov. 28 ceremony, calling it "one of the untouchable pillars of our state."

The Heinz Galinski Prize, worth nearly \$10,000, is named for the late leader of Berlin's Jewish community, who died in 1992.

Some 500 community members and local politicians attended the ceremony.

"The struggle of Israel to defend itself from its enemies was the main concern of Galinski and the three men who have followed him as president," said Alexander Brenner, the current leader of Berlin's Jewish community. Brenner also read a congratulatory note to Fischer from Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder.

### Anti-Semitism up Down Under

The number of anti-Semitic incidents in Australia has risen dramatically, according to newly released statistics.

The president of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, Jeremy Jones, told the group's annual conference that 593 incidents were reported in the year ending Sept. 30, up from 362 in the previous year.

The incidents included arson attempts, assaults, personal harassment and threatening telephone calls.

## Canadian government faces lawsuit demanding that it blacklist Hezbollah

By Bill Gladstone

TORONTO (JTA) — B'nai Brith Canada has filed a lawsuit to force the government to ban Hezbollah from operating in Canada.

The lawsuit was filed after Canada decided last week to add Hamas, Islamic Jihad and four other radical groups to its list of banned terrorist organizations.

"We want the federal court to review the actions of the government of Canada," said Frank Dimant, B'nai Brith's national executive vice president.

"We believe that the government of Canada is being erroneous and negligent in not listing Hezbollah and all of its components as a terrorist organization."

Dimant added: "Canadians can no longer tolerate the progress of a government moving at a snail's pace in dealing with organizations and groups who have shown themselves to be bent on the destruction of the West."

The lawsuit, which was filed Saturday, names Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham and Justice Minister Martin Cauchon as co-defendants, along with the Canadian government.

B'nai Brith has simultaneously launched a national awareness campaign, consisting mainly of several full-page newspaper ads, to inform Canadians that the government still tolerates the domestic presence of an organization that Canada's intelligence agency, CSIS, unequivocally describes as a terrorist group.

The government's list of terrorist groups, created under legislation passed after the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States, now includes 13 groups that are banned from the country.

Anyone belonging to or helping the groups faces a possible 10-year prison sentence.

In July, the solicitor general outlawed Al-Qaida and six Al-Qaida affiliates.

Hezbollah is responsible for the deaths of hundreds of Americans and Israelis. The United States has branded it a terrorist organization, and the United Nations has placed it on its list of terrorist entities. However, the Liberal government of Prime Minister Jean Chretien has resisted such moves, saying Hezbollah's charitable wing provides social services in Lebanon and the group is well represented in the Lebanese Parliament.

Despite mounting criticism from within and outside Parliament, Graham makes a distinction between Hezbollah's military wing — which cannot raise funds in Canada — and its social or humanitarian wing, which still can engage in fund-raising activities.

B'nai Brith isn't buying the distinction.

"We contend that it's impossible to differentiate between the various components of a terrorist organization," Dimant said. "We believe that it is unacceptable and unconscionable that Canada should defend any branch of a terrorist organization that is committed to killing Americans and Jews and seeks the total destruction of Israel."

"We have to ask the Canadian government, what is it waiting for?" said Keith Landy, national president of the Canadian Jewish Congress, which has lobbied the government to blacklist Hezbollah.

"Is it waiting for a terrorist attack within Canada, God forbid, before it will wake up?" said Landy, who called Canada's blacklisting of Hamas, Islamic Jihad and four other groups "a good start."

Solicitor General Wayne Easter has indicated that his department will outlaw more terrorist organizations soon. Signs are emerging that Hezbollah may be among them.

Hours after B'nai Brith announced its lawsuit, Revenue Minister Elinor Caplan told reporters the government intends to outlaw Hezbollah as soon as it has gathered enough material to support the action.

In the meantime, at least three Liberal members of Parliament have publicly broken ranks with the government over the issue.

Liberal lawmakers Irwin Cotler and Anita Neville, who represent districts in Montreal and Winnipeg, respectively, have spoken out several times in Parliament in recent weeks about the immediate need to ban Hezbollah.

Former Defense Minister Art Eggleton, who now represents a district in the Toronto area, has conveyed a similar message in letters to both the Jewish and the mainstream media. □

## Report cites rising anti-Semitism in Greek media reports of intifada

By Jean Cohen

ATHENS (JTA) — Anti-Semitism is on the rise in Greece, according to a new report.

The Greek Helsinki Monitor, a nongovernmental organization affiliated with the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights, said in the report that since the start of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict more than two years ago, "blatant anti-Semitism" has been expressed in the Greek media "by a spectrum of influential personalities in politics, labor, education and culture."

The Sept. 11 attacks in the United States also contributed to the rise of anti-Semitism here, according to the 64-page report that was issued last week.

The report cited a sharp increase in anti-Semitism in the media after Israel launched a large-scale military operation last spring to uproot the Palestinian terror infrastructure in the West Bank.

At that time, according to the report, mainstream Greek newspapers were "deluged" with anti-Semitic editorials and cartoons drawing parallels between the Israeli military operation and the Holocaust, and comparing Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to Hitler.

Indeed, expressions of anti-Semitism through Holocaust imagery were so harsh in the Greek media and political circles that Hronika, the official magazine of the Central Board of Greek Jewish Communities, spoke of a climate of "hysteria and anti-Semitism" that was masquerading as mere criticism of the State of Israel.

International Jewish organizations soon stood up and took notice of the development.

In July and September, the Anti-Defamation League sent two letters to the Greek prime minister, Konstantine Simitis, and the foreign minister, George Papandreou, protesting the use of Holocaust imagery in the Greek media.

During a July meeting at which European security representatives discussed anti-Semitism, Shimon Samuels, the director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Paris office, urged Simitis and other Greek leaders to publicly condemn the use of anti-Semitic stereotypes and Nazi imagery when criticizing Israel.

"Anti-Israel fanaticism has degenerated into anti-Jewish hate mongering by leading intellectuals and politicians," Samuels said at the time.

In a more recent development, the Simon Wiesenthal Center sent a letter to the Greek government calling on it to close down the TV station of Yorgos Karatzaferis, the leader of the far-right Popular Rally Party. The party recently garnered nearly 14 percent of the vote in local elections for a district that includes the city of Athens.

Karatzaferis, who regularly hurls epithets against Jews and the Israeli ambassador to Greece on his TV station, has propagated the libel, circulating widely in the Arab world, that Israel was responsible for the Sept. 11 attacks.

In September, Karatzaferis submitted a question in the Greek Parliament asking the foreign minister if he was aware that the Israeli press had published articles claiming that Jews had not gone to work on Sept. 11 after they were forewarned about the attacks on the Twin Towers.

The question was subsequently published in several right-wing

papers in Greece with no comment, while articles embracing the rumors were even found in editorials of the official magazine of the Technical Chamber of Greece, the government body that oversees the work of Greek industrialists. The magazine is distributed to thousands of Greek businessmen.

While the Greek Helsinki Monitor portrays anti-Semitism in the Greek media and on the part of some politicians, observers point out that there is no state-sponsored anti-Semitism in Greece.

Just the same, the report says, "a fundamental obstacle to counteracting anti-Semitism in Greece" is the fact that "the Greek government has yet to take a strong and consistent stand against anti-Semitism."

The government defends itself against such charges by saying it will not try to censor the media.

While most members of the Jewish community would agree that it is good to have an unfettered media, they would nonetheless prefer a bit more objectivity where their community is concerned.

Greek Jews point out, for example, that the media barely gave any mention to the recent desecration of the Holocaust memorial in Salonika and of tombstones in the Jewish cemetery of the northern city of Ioannina — even though, in the latter case, local police officers appeared to have been involved.

The Greek government spokesman, Christos Protopapas, condemned the two incidents. But there was no official condemnation when the newly unveiled Holocaust memorial on the island of Rhodes was defaced in July. □

## Holocaust exhibit a breakthrough as Croatia addresses wartime past

By Adam B. Ellick

NEW YORK (JTA) — A Holocaust exhibit at an art museum in Zagreb is being hailed as a major step forward in Croatia's willingness to deal honestly with its World War II history.

Croatian President Stepan Mesic recently inaugurated the exhibit, entitled "The Courage to Remember," at the capital's Mimara Art Museum.

"This is not an exhibition for historians, but one for those who want to revise history," Mesic said in a speech at the opening. "This is not an exhibition for those who know but for those who do not know, and even more so for those who do not wish to know."

The exhibition has appeared in 19 different countries since it was created by the Simon Wiesenthal Center in 1988, but this is believed to be its first appearance in a post-Communist Eastern European nation.

The Civic Committee for Human Rights, a Zagreb-based NGO that focuses on the Balkan wars, brought the exhibit to the museum through a grant from the Heinrich Boll Foundation.

Officials hope the exhibit — 40 panels documenting the Holocaust, from the rise of Nazism in 1933 to survivors' postwar struggles — will travel through Croatia after its stint in Zagreb.

The exhibit's name "says everything we in Croatia have to be very much aware of, when it comes to our attitude toward history, toward the truth about history," Mesic said. "Indeed, often one needs courage to remember things past and to admit things that happened. The past can be ugly, and the truth painful."

The exhibit sparked a small demonstration led by Mladen Schwartz, a Croatian nationalist born to Jewish parents. The theme of the gathering was "Jews out of Croatia." □