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86th Year

TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

Chaotic burial for terror victim

An Israeli terror attack victim was buried Monday, following a chaotic funeral procession in which participants disagreed over where to bury the body.

Nathaniel Ozeri, 34, was killed last Friday by two Palestinian gunmen in his home. [Page 4]

Libya to head U.N. rights panel

The U.N. Human Rights Commission elected a Libyan diplomat as its president for the coming year. Monday's move followed the opposition of U.S. officials, who called Libya a notorious human rights abuser.

The commission's president had been chosen by consensus in previous years, but this time the United States forced a vote in the 53-member, Geneva-based group after Libya was nominated by African countries.

In a secret ballot, 33 countries backed Libyan ambassador Najat Hajjaji for the presidency. Three countries voted against and there were 17 abstentions, according to The Associated Press.

Lieberman blasts Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia must reduce its support for terror or suffer the consequences, Democratic presidential candidate Joseph Lieberman said.

Speaking Sunday in New York, the Connecticut senator said he told the Saudis during his recent trip through the Middle East that if they don't change their backing for terror, "our relationship with them will not go on as before."

More than 1,000 people attended the program, in which Lieberman and his wife were interviewed by Rabbi David Woznica at the 92nd St. Y. Others watched by video hookup in cities across North America.

Lieberman also said he does not agree with the Bush administration's opposition to an affirmative action program at the University of Michigan. The United States has made progress in race relations, Lieberman said, but "there's unfinished work to be done."

Jews protest war

Jewish protesters joined an estimated 30,000 anti-war demonstrators in Washington on Saturday. The rally against a possible war on Iraq — held in conjunction with a demonstration in San Francisco — was one of the largest to date. [Page 3]

FOCUS ON ISSUES

With growing overseas needs, UJC is pushing for greater funds

By Rachel Pomerance

NEW YORK (JTA) — For every dollar Joe Levine gives to the North American federation system, about 30 cents is sent abroad.

That proportion has remained steady the last few years, but marks a sharp decline from a time when federations sent about half of their donations overseas.

The shift began about 15 years ago, and has continued downward ever since.

Now, the United Jewish Communities, the umbrella group for North American federations, is forming an advocacy committee for its overseas operation.

For local federations, who foot the bill for the UJC, "overseas needs are remote," said James Lodge, director of the Overseas Needs Assessment and Distribution Committee, known as ONAD.

"We as a national system have an obligation" to help people understand overseas needs, he said.

The move to form an advocacy group reflects a growing sense by federation leaders that the system is failing to effectively fund its overseas partners.

Its major partners include the Jewish Agency for Israel, which handles immigration and absorption to Israel, and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, which delivers international relief and welfare for needy Jews.

The general overseas fund administered through ONAD is separate from special campaigns, such as the current Israel Emergency Campaign, which to date has raised \$334 million.

The Jewish Agency and the JDC have channeled those emergency funds to other groups in Israel for services such as child safety and protection programs, aid to terror victims and Argentine Jewish immigration.

UJC's formation three years ago was a response, in part, to the desire to reverse the trend by local federations to shift dollars to local needs.

According to Gary Tobin, president of the Institute for Jewish and Community Research, a confluence of factors contributed to the trend:

- The early 1990s was a time of peacemaking and prosperity for Israel, where politicians joined federation leaders in telling Americans to keep their money at home.
- The Jewish Agency, the federations' largest overseas partner, was seen as a "symbol of bureaucratic inefficiency."
- Donors began designating dollars for specific Israeli programs outside the federation system.
- The 1990 National Jewish Population Survey revealed a 52 percent intermarriage rate among those who had married in the previous five years, prompting federations to spend more on domestic education and identity-building programs.

UJC's new overseas advocacy replaces a function held by the United Jewish Appeal before it merged with the United Israel Appeal and the Council of Jewish Federations to form the UJC.

After the merger, "the advocacy role of the UJA evaporated. That's why they have to recreate it," Tobin said.

In addition, the collapse of the peace process, Israel's sliding economy and "anti-Israelism and anti-Semitism all over the world forces the federation system to pay more attention to Israel again," he said.

Under the UJC, the 25-member ONAD committee — made up of representatives

MIDEAST FOCUS

Poll: Peres would help Labor

If Israel's Labor Party were led by former Prime Minister Shimon Peres, it could close the gap with the Likud in the upcoming election, according to a new poll.

The poll, which appeared Monday in the Israeli daily *Ma'ariv*, said a Labor Party led by Peres could win 29 seats in the Knesset, compared with 30 for Likud. Recent polls have predicted that under its current leader, Amram Mitzna, Labor may not get more than 19 seats in the Knesset.

But Mitzna rejected suggestions from members of his party that he step aside and let Peres run in his place. "I came here to win, and I will stay on as chairman. Whoever doesn't want to help should step aside and not be a disturbance," he said.

Sharon clarifies remarks

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon clarified remarks in which he dismissed international efforts to forge an Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement.

In an interview with *The Washington Post*, Sharon said that the peace plan being proposed by the diplomatic "Quartet" — the United States, United Nations, European Union and Russia — should not be taken seriously, and said that there was another plan that would have better chances to bring peace with the Palestinians. On Sunday, however, Sharon's office clarified the statement, saying that the United States is the only member of the Quartet whose vision matches Israel's and is likely to lead to peace.

Iran involved in Tel Aviv attacks?

Israel suspects Iran was involved in a recent suicide bombing in Tel Aviv that killed 23 people.

Israeli security experts suspect that Iranian Revolutionary Guards operating in Lebanon had a hand in the Jan. 5 attack near Tel Aviv's old Central Bus Station, the Israeli daily *Ha'aretz* reported.



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of various federations, the Jewish Agency and the JDC — was created to give federations more ownership of and, consequently, buy-in to overseas decisions.

Under the old system, the distribution of funds was determined by the Jewish Agency and the JDC.

The creation of the ONAD process prompted increased allocations by the federations, but still didn't add up to the amount ONAD recommended.

"The process I think has been amazingly effective in stabilizing a period of downward numbers," Lodge said. "But it's not enough."

In 2002, the JDC got \$55 million from the UJC and the Jewish Agency got \$160 million.

Still, the amounts fell short of its goals by \$7 million during ONAD's first year and by \$17 million during its second year, and it "will fall significantly short" again this year, according to Richard Wexler, who serves on UJC's Budget Committee.

Several UJC insiders say the shortfall stems from UJC's inability to make a compelling case for overseas needs to its member federations.

The UJC's overseas division "has not as of yet fulfilled its responsibility to communicate to the federations the need to act on the recommendations of ONAD," said Bennett Aaron, former chair of the United Israel Appeal.

In the meantime, the UJC's beneficiary agencies are advocating on their own behalf.

"We now have JDC and, to a much lesser extent, JAFI, going around from community to community lobbying," said Jay Sarber, president of the Jewish Federation of St. Louis and a member of the ONAD committee.

"They're expending dollars that we need for overseas expenditure."

But some say that cutting out the middle man is useful for federations that like to make their own allocations decisions.

"Who says that the highest and most important use of UJC time is to sit around and to try to make that determination?" said Barry Shrage, president of Boston's Combined Jewish Philanthropies.

"They haven't done a very good job for the last five years, and you wonder, why bother?"

Not every federation leader agrees.

Steven Terner, executive director of the Columbia Jewish Federation in South Carolina, said that a small federation like his, which has fewer resources than federations in larger cities, is "indebted to the volunteers that spend many hours assessing and evaluating the programs."

"The UJC is a participating democracy, and it works," he said.

Still, many criticize the system, saying it is plagued by political gridlock, with millions of dollars at stake for the overseas partners.

A chief grievance is the 75-25 split in allocations between the Jewish Agency and JDC, a breakdown that predates the creation of UJC and continues today.

Some say growing humanitarian needs around the world and a drop in aliyah mean the JDC should get more funds.

Others insist that at a time of crisis for Israel, the Jewish Agency's aliyah programs are a priority.

In an attempt to reassess needs and allocations, ONAD representatives visited Russia, Israel and Ukraine last spring and summer.

A committee was slated to be formed in the fall to discuss the findings, but the group met only once in October, and didn't make concrete decisions.

At the UJC's annual conference of federations in November, a vote on redetermining allocations was tabled because "the leadership sensed a split," Sarber said.

The indecision has left many frustrated.

"There was an enormous investment made in needs assessment this past year," Sarber said.

He said there was a general feeling that the way everything has played out — "sort of a continuing resolution approach as opposed to any alterations at this point — is a little frustrating."

The issue reflects the larger problem of a dearth of overseas funding, he said.

"A rising tide would raise all ships," Sarber said. The UJC must "take it out of the realm of partisan politics, and put it in the realm of problem solving." □

JEWISH WORLD

Report to accuse Iran, Hezbollah

The Iranian government and Hezbollah reportedly will be accused of plotting a 1994 terror attack against the AMIA Jewish center in Buenos Aires. This week the Argentine intelligence service is expected to give prosecutors a report detailing the role played by Iran and Hezbollah in the attack, according to Argentina's Clarin newspaper.

More than eight years after the AMIA attack, which left 85 dead and more than 300 wounded, none of those who masterminded the deadly bombing have been brought to trial. Israeli officials have long maintained that Iran and Hezbollah were behind the attack.

Canadian fire called arson

An arsonist was likely responsible for a blaze that caused roughly \$5,000 in damage to the exterior of the Jewish Youth Library in Ottawa, according to Canadian authorities.

After detecting the odor of gasoline, police and firefighters concluded that an accelerant was used to start Sunday night's fire, which was brought under control in 20 minutes and did not damage the library's 8,000 books.

Berlin's chief rabbi harassed

Berlin's chief rabbi received a threatening letter filled with ashes. Rabbi Chaim Rozwaski, 67, a Holocaust survivor, told Der Tagesspiegel newspaper, "It is tragic to have lived through this horror as a child and to experience now to what a frightening extent anti-Semitism has grown in Germany today."

Conservative Yeshiva to open

The Conservative movement is launching a one-year yeshiva program in Jerusalem this fall. The Conservative Yeshiva's program is designed for high school graduates who want a year of Jewish study before beginning college. The program was slated to begin last fall, but the opening was postponed "to allow for more intensive recruitment efforts," according to a statement from the Conservative movement.

Russian JCC vandalized

Windows were broken at a Jewish community center in Russia. No injuries were reported in Sunday's attack, which took place in Ulyanovsk, 430 miles east of Moscow.

Police arrested one person who was allegedly a member of a neo-Nazi group, according to the Union of Councils for Jews in the Former Soviet Union. Jewish leaders believe the attack came in response to a case being brought against a local editor whose newspaper has published anti-Semitic articles.

'You don't have to be anti-Israel to be anti-war': Jews join D.C. rally

By Mica Rosenberg

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Judith Seid sees no contradiction between her support for the State of Israel and her attending Saturday's rally here opposing a U.S. war on Iraq.

"Israel is legitimate and required for the Jewish people," said Seid, but its safety shouldn't be used as an excuse for a strike aimed at toppling Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. "You don't have to be anti-Israel to be anti-war."

The signs carried at the rally by Seid's group, the Baltimore Jewish Cultural Chavurah, made the group's feeling clear: "This War Is Not About Israel. It's About Oil" and "Secular Jews Say No to Bush War."

With a mood characterized by defiance and resignation, a police-estimated 30,000 demonstrators marched in Washington, although march organizers put the number far higher.

The rally was one of several anti-war protests held over the weekend across the United States as a possible war with Iraq looms.

Before the rally, the Anti-Defamation League released a statement warning that previous anti-war rallies had embraced Palestinian terrorism, equated Zionism with Nazism and called for the destruction of the Jewish state.

At the Washington rally, there were marked differences regarding Israel among the participants.

The most obvious anti-Zionist voices were limited to a few individuals' homemade signs — one that said "Zionism=Fascism" in magic marker, for example — and a small delegation from Neturei Karta, an anti-Zionist religious Jewish group.

A spokesman for Neturei Karta, Rabbi Chaim Tzvi Freimann, said, "Israel is manipulating U.S. foreign policy" and "putting Jewish people throughout the world in danger."

One pro-Palestinian group in attendance at the rally, Stop U.S. Tax Aid to Israel Now, said U.S. policy in Israel is linked to the U.S. stance on Iraq in that both are part of a U.S. desire to control the region's energy supply.

Matt Bowles, a member of the group who sold T-shirts at the rally bearing the slogan "We are all Palestinians," said the looming war in Iraq "needs to be understood in the context of larger Middle East policy, which is about maintaining control over resources in the region."

But Yael Savage, an Israeli from Safed who lives in Worcester, Mass., said it is unfair to connect the two countries' situations because unlike Israel, the U.S. "is not under constant threat."

A member of Baltimore Jews for Israeli Palestinian Peace, Dr. Terry Fitzgerald, said there is an "element of the movement against the war in Iraq that opposes the existence of Israel in any form, but that's not the heart of it," he said. "The U.S. government, by promoting disorder in the region, hurts Israel."

The 53-year-old emergency medicine physician, who marched with the banner slogan "Jews for Peace," said dissenters should separate support for Israel from support for the Sharon government, just like opposing the Bush government does not have to mean opposition to the United States as a whole.

Among the groups officially involved in the march, which drew support from more than 200 organizations around the country, were A Jewish Voice for Peace and Jews for Racial & Economic Justice.

The two groups are part of the umbrella organization United for Peace, the coalition that co-organized the day's events.

One concern voiced by Jewish participants at the rally is what they call the absence of open debate within the Jewish community about Israel.

"The pro-Israeli lobby in this country has done a disservice by being so shrill that it has turned common people who don't know about the situation" toward anti-Israel sentiment or anti-Semitism, said Mary Dagold, a Reform Jew and a librarian in Baltimore. "There is a lack of subtlety which has hurt Israel a lot." □

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

Shocking burial of slain settler highlights fissures within Israel

By Matthew Gutman

HEBRON (JTA) — Nathaniel Ozeri's lifeless head bounced against the hard canvas of a stretcher as friends bore his corpse through Hebron's muddy hills, making a mad dash to avoid police and soldiers so they could bury Ozeri at the illegal settlement outpost he established a few years ago.

Ozeri, 34, a leading activist in the extremist Kach movement, was murdered by Palestinian terrorists last Friday evening on the doorstep of his isolated home outside Kiryat Arba.

However, it was only after a 16-hour-long funeral — in which his corpse essentially was kidnapped three times — that Ozeri finally was buried in the ancient cemetery in Hebron.

Israelis were shocked by the images of Ozeri's corpse, swaddled in a bloodstained prayer shawl and with his face intentionally exposed to the elements.

On Monday, Israeli newspapers carried banner headlines with statements such as "Disgrace of the Dead," and blared page-sized pictures of the corpse during various stages of Sunday's odyssey.

The episode reminded Israelis of the explosive domestic issues — such as the fate of the settlements and the civil disobedience of the radical settler hard core — that they may have to deal with after the Jan. 28 elections and an anticipated U.S.-led war on Iraq.

The funeral also displayed the internal schisms in the settlement movement, between a hard core of activists and extremists that has frequently come to blows with Israeli soldiers and police and the movement's mainstream leadership.

The chairman of the Labor Party, Amram Mitzna, has pledged that, if elected, he will withdraw from most of the West Bank within a year, even without a peace agreement. Mitzna, however, is not expected to win the elections.

U.S. officials also have intimated that once an expected war against Iraq is over, the Bush administration will come out much more strongly against Israel's presence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

With the fate of the settlement enterprise in the balance, the extremists feel duty-bound to take action to establish facts on the ground, even at the cost of disobeying Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's government, which is expected to win the elections.

The fervor of the extremist wing, which has established illegal outposts throughout the West Bank and has clashed with soldiers sent to dismantle them, was evident at the funeral early Monday morning.

Eulogizing his friend Ozeri, activist Michael Ben-Horin called on settler youth to "rise up, you mountain lion cubs, and avenge Nathaniel creatively, with vengeance against your enemies, and God will be with us." Ben-Horin blamed former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin for the Palestinian intifida — for having given weapons to the Palestinian Authority.

Ben-Horin and his youthful followers also chanted against the "leftist Sharon" government, which they say goes too easy on the Palestinians.

Disgust with the episode cut across partisan lines. The Yesha Council, the governing body of the 200,000-strong settlement movement, said by Sunday night that it wanted to cut any ties to such "half-crazed hoodlums." Yesha Council spokesman Yehoshua

Mor Yosef also described the episode as "sacrilege against the dead."

Privately, settler leaders fear that extremists could bring down the entire settlement venture, driving Israeli public opinion firmly against them and paving the way for the settlements' eventual evacuation.

Even by the standards of Hebron-area funerals, which are often strident and angry affairs, Ozeri's funeral was extraordinary.

Friends and loyalists, including Ozeri's widow, Livnat, kidnapped the corpse three times on Sunday, playing a bizarre game of keep-away both from Ozeri's elderly parents — who wanted their son buried in Jerusalem so they could visit the grave — and from Israeli police and soldiers.

Livnat and Ozeri loyalists claimed that Ozeri wanted to be buried on Hill 26, the illegal outpost outside Hebron where he lived in a tin and wood hut, to establish another "fact on the ground."

The outpost was re-established in 2001, after the government of former Prime Minister Ehud Barak had evacuated it.

Loyalists believed that burying Ozeri on Hill 26 would have ensured that the outpost remained in Israeli hands. Even before Ozeri's body was snatched, the funeral had started to go awry.

Livnat Ozeri had decided that her husband should be carried manually to his grave site. Barely 100 yards from the couple's home, some in the 2,000-person procession began throwing stones at nearby Palestinian homes while chanting "Death to the Arabs."

Police and soldiers could do little to stop the mob, which used pipes, stones and even pitchforks to smash what they could.

Burnt carcasses of cars dotted the road and women stomped saplings, uprooted vines and pulled cauliflowers from the ground. Some proudly took the produce home with them.

Others took stones and smashed windows and doors, screaming, "We will kill you!" at the Arabs cowering inside.

Police trying to restore order also were stoned and spat upon, and were called "Nazis," "collaborators" and "capos."

Throughout the procession, Livnat Ozeri, who was restrained several times from breaking into Palestinian homes, remained fierce and stoic; she did not shed a tear for her husband in public.

The first kidnapping occurred shortly after Livnat Ozeri and her in-laws had reached a compromise agreement, brokered by Hebron Chief Rabbi Dov Lior, to bury Ozeri in Hebron's old cemetery.

But as a flatbed pick-up truck began transporting the corpse to Hebron, a two-hour argument between members of Ozeri's family and his former Kach comrades exploded into fistfights.

Friends grabbed Ozeri's body and, carrying it on a stretcher, fled with it across the countryside back toward Hill 26.

They never made it. Police finally caught up with the stretcher-bearers and a ragtag group of 150 supporters.

Well after midnight, following a few struggles with police in which several rioters and police were injured, Livnat Ozeri agreed to return the body to Hebron for a proper burial.

By 4 a.m. on Monday, the body finally had been lowered into the ground.

Israel's Ashkenazi chief rabbi, Yisrael Meir Lau, condemned the settlers' sprint through the Hebron hills with the body, saying "it is very surprising that to the murder of a young man was added the bitter cup of the disgrace of the deceased."

Ozeri's family has "no right" over the corpse, Lau said — only the responsibility to bury it, "in the same day, in an orderly place recognized as a cemetery." □