



Daily News Bulletin

Vol. 81, No. 46

Monday, March 10, 2003

86th Year

TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

Hamas co-founder killed

Hamas declared Israeli leaders "open targets" after one of the organization's founders was killed Saturday in an Israeli helicopter missile attack in the Gaza Strip.

Ibrahim Makadme, a senior political leader of Hamas, and three other Hamas members were killed when a missile struck their car.

Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz described Makadme as the "ultimate arch-terrorist" and vowed that Israel would target more terrorist leaders.

Rockets fired at Israeli town

Palestinians in the Gaza Strip fired four rockets Sunday at the Israeli town of Sderot, but caused no injuries or damage.

The attack occurred after Israeli army troops took up positions last Friday in northern Gaza to prevent any more rocket launchings.

Arafat picks prime minister

Yasser Arafat chose his longtime No. 2 at the PLO, Mahmoud Abbas, as prime minister.

The Palestinian Authority president told aides of his choice on March 6.

Abbas, 68, also known as Abu Mazen, is considered less hard-line than Arafat. On Saturday, the PLO's 122-member Central Council formally decided during a late-night session to create the post of prime minister.

Abbas said that he would have to know how much power the new prime minister will have before deciding whether to take the post.

On Sunday, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon welcomed the naming of Abbas, but added that Israel would "closely examine the extent of authority he is given."

While Abbas is considered a relative moderate among the top Palestinian hierarchy, there are also reports saying he wrote a 1982 doctoral dissertation and a study two years later about purported secret links between the Nazis and Zionist leaders.

In his writings, according to the Washington-based Middle East Media Research Institute, Abbas argued that Zionist officials collaborated with the Nazis in order to create a situation in which the international community would agree on the necessity for a Jewish homeland.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

Release of Papon closed door on era, but scars of war linger

By Philip Carmel

PARIS (JTA) — As the lawyers who helped put him behind bars see it, there will be no more Maurice Papons, no more faithful civil servants to be brought to trial for doing their administrative duties while 6 million Jews went to their deaths across Europe.

Last month, in a development that angered many Holocaust survivors, Papon did not even need to turn up at the Paris appeals court that upheld a decision to free him after he served only three years of a 10-year sentence for complicity in crimes against humanity.

According to Arno Klarsfeld, one of the lawyers who succeeded in obtaining that conviction in 1998, Papon did no more than "what his government asked him to do."

"And that government was the legitimate government of France. Papon did it like a good civil servant," Klarsfeld told JTA.

Klarsfeld is the son of Serge and Beate Klarsfeld, who have fought a decades-long campaign to bring Nazi war criminals to justice. They also have forced the French state to acknowledge the role it played in collaborating with the Nazis in the deportation of more than a quarter of French Jewry to Auschwitz.

As Arno Klarsfeld freely admits, that campaign is over — and it has been won.

"After the main perpetrators were condemned, my father set to work to put the main accomplices on trial," Klarsfeld said. "Having made German society come to terms with what it had done, my parents then turned their attention to France."

This view is shared by Alain Jakubowicz, another of the lawyers who helped put Papon behind bars.

"There are no more survivors. Papon is the last one left," Jakubowicz, currently president of the CRIF umbrella organization of French Jews in the Lyon region, told JTA.

Papon's trial represented the third and most important stage of the French state coming to terms with its role in the deportation of the country's Jews, Jakubowicz said.

"The first stage was putting" Lyon Gestapo head Klaus "Barbie on trial, which held the Nazis to account. Then the trial of" Vichy regime militia officer Paul "Touvier showed the active role played by some French people in carrying out the Nazi policy," he said.

"But the most important stage was with Papon, because the immense media coverage of the trial allowed French people to see that not only Germans were involved in the deportations," Jakubowicz said.

Papon's involvement in the deportations was clear. A senior official for the collaborationist Vichy regime of Marshall Philippe Petain in the southwestern Bordeaux region, Papon signed the documents that led to the deportation of more than 1,500 Jews to Nazi death camps.

Papon was part of a group of administrators who enabled the Vichy state to collaborate with the Germans — and more than 70,000 French Jews paid for such complicity with their lives. But even for Klarsfeld, Papon did not deserve life in prison.

"He wasn't like Bousquet," Klarsfeld said, "and there was nothing anti-Semitic in his file. He just did what he was told to do,"

Rene Bousquet, Vichy's national police chief and Papon's superior, was killed by a deranged gunman in 1993 on the eve of his war crimes trial. Papon was one of many

MIDEAST FOCUS

Haifa bombing toll rises to 16

The death toll in last week's Haifa bus bombing rose to 16. Anatoly Biryakov, 20, of Haifa, died Saturday of injuries sustained in the March 5 attack. His family decided to donate his organs for transplant.

Victims' families sue Arafat

The families of seven of the 11 people killed in a suicide bombing at a Jerusalem café a year ago filed a \$27 million lawsuit Sunday against Yasser Arafat and the Palestinian Authority.

The lawsuit claimed that the terrorists who carried out the attack were following Arafat's orders. The claimants said that since the attack, they suffer from trauma and nightmares. Last week, Israeli troops arrested a Palestinian suspected of involvement in the terror cell that carried out the attack at the Café Moment.

On Sunday, the anniversary of the attack, victims' relatives met at the café to commemorate those killed in the bombing.

Al-Qaida-linked group outlawed

The Israeli government on Sunday declared an Al-Qaida-linked group illegal. Israel acted following a request by the United States to outlaw Jemaah Islamiah. The group, active in Southeast Asia, is believed to be behind last October's attack on a night club in Bali, Indonesia.

Terrorists' homes demolished

Israeli troops demolished the homes of the two Hamas terrorists who killed an Israeli couple in their Kiryat Arba home last Friday night.

Troops also demolished the home of the suicide bomber who blew himself up March 5 on a Haifa bus, killing 16 people. In addition, soldiers destroyed the home of a senior Islamic Jihad militant who was arrested last Friday.



Daily News Bulletin

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JTA DAILY NEWS BULLETIN is published five days a week, except holidays, by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Inc., 330 Seventh Ave., New York, N.Y. 10001-5010. For information about how to subscribe by e-mail, fax or regular mail, call (212) 643-1890, or visit our Web site at www.jta.org.
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who managed to change sides before the end of the German occupation, and his administrative prowess enabled his earlier crimes to go unpunished for many years.

After the liberation, Papon went on to an illustrious postwar career, serving as police chief of Paris between 1958 and 1967 and as budget minister in the French Cabinet during the 1970s.

Legal action against Papon began in 1981 after a newspaper article detailed his past. But proceedings against him were repeatedly obstructed by French officials reluctant to see a trial dredge up embarrassing memories of France's collaboration with the Nazi occupiers.

His trial, which began in October 1997 and was delayed several times by Papon's health problems before ending in April 1998, was one the longest in French postwar history.

Papon's trial and conviction were part of a long process that saw France finally come to terms with its role during the Holocaust.

It took until 1995 for a French president to formally recognize that the deportation of French Jews was aided and abetted by the French state itself.

Speaking then at the memorial to the mass round-up of Jews at the former Velodrome d'Hiver bicycle stadium in Paris, President Jacques Chirac accepted that the Vichy regime was the legal French state at the time of the Holocaust, and therefore bore direct responsibility along with the Nazis.

"The crime of the occupier was seconded by French citizens, by the French state," Chirac said.

On July 16-17, 1942, French officials herded 13,152 Jews into the Velodrome d'Hiver. They were then deported to Nazi death camps.

Speaking last year at the 60th anniversary of the roundup, Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin said, "The French state, in organizing these round-ups, betrayed the founding principles of our nation."

Such words were virtually unthinkable only two decades earlier, Klarsfeld said.

For those Jews deported during World War II, the appeals court's decision last month upholding freedom for Papon was difficult to endure.

Julia Wallach lives in the same apartment in Paris's 11th District where she was arrested and deported in 1943. For Wallach, there is no question that Papon should not have been let out.

"He should die in prison," she told JTA. "How many Jews did he let go?"

The decision to free Papon was distressing for many victims, said Jeanette Morrud of the Association of Former Jewish Deportees in Paris.

"It took a long time for France to accept what went on under the occupation, but the trials were still very important for the families — even if it took so long," she said.

The 50-year wait to bring war criminals to justice didn't surprise people like Rafael Feigelson. The founder and president of the Association of Jewish Resistants, Feigelson told JTA that France had never truly exorcised its Vichy past.

"There was always a bit of esprit de corps among former Vichy administrators after the war. They should have gotten rid of the lot of them after the liberation," Feigelson said.

"Some of them I can understand; they apologized for what they did," he added. "But Papon? He has never showed remorse, and he has always been indifferent to the suffering of Jews."

Papon could still return to prison if future medical reports find him physically fit enough to continue his sentence, but Klarsfeld said this is highly unlikely.

Nevertheless, a court in Papon's home county in the Paris suburbs has already instructed the Vichy official to undergo further medical tests.

But while the period of trials and convictions is now over, the battle to retain the memory of the Holocaust goes on.

Was the Papon trial, then, something of an educational message for future generations? Perhaps. But for those like Feigelson who were deported and tortured by the Nazis, there remains something of far greater importance.

"We didn't do it for education," said Feigelson, who was decorated with France's highest military awards and its most prestigious Legion of Honor. "We did it for justice." □

JEWISH WORLD

War push blamed on Jews

Jewish groups are criticizing a U.S. congressman from Virginia for saying the Jewish community is behind the Bush administration's push for war against Iraq.

Speaking to constituents last week, Democrat James Moran said, "If it were not for the strong support of the Jewish community for this war with Iraq, we would not be doing this," according to a local report.

The Anti-Defamation League sent a letter to Moran, asking him to clarify and disassociate himself from the comments. The National Jewish Democratic Council called Moran's comments "stunning."

In a statement released last Friday, Moran said he mentioned the Jewish community because a woman asking a question identified herself as Jewish.

"By no means did I intend or believe that members of the Jewish community are united in their support for a possible war with Iraq," Moran said in the statement. "And I certainly never meant, nor do I believe, to imply that the Jewish community is responsible for or should be blamed for this war."

Argentina seeks Iranians' arrest

Argentina asked Interpol to arrest four former Iranian government employees in connection with the 1994 bombing of the AMIA Jewish community center.

In a report issued last week, the investigative judge handling the case, Juan Jose Galeano, said it is certain that "radical elements from the Iranian Republic" were behind the attack, which killed 85 people and wounded hundreds.

Muslim preacher sentenced

A London-based Muslim preacher convicted on hate crimes charges was sentenced last Friday to nine years in jail.

Abdullah el-Faisal was found guilty last month of encouraging followers to kill Jews, Hindus and other non-believers. At his sentencing, the judge recommended that the Jamaican-born cleric be deported after serving at least half of his sentence.

Vandals slam Jewish journalist

Anti-Semitic graffiti was scrawled at the Milan office of Italy's RAI state broadcasting authority. The incident occurred days after a journalist of Jewish origin was chosen to preside over Italy's national TV and radio channels.

Paolo Mieli was a former editor in chief of the *Corriere della Sera* and *La Stampa* newspapers. He was chosen last Friday as president of the RAI board of directors.

Officials found the graffiti Sunday morning, according to *The Associated Press*.

Jewish students at Toronto school roughed up by anti-war protesters

By Bill Gladstone

TORONTO (JTA) — Some protesters here in favor of a peaceful resolution of the conflict with Iraq didn't practice what they preach last week.

Several Jewish students at Toronto's York University were intimidated and roughed up March 5 by anti-war protesters.

Violating a previous agreement with university authorities, protesters blocked two entrances into the university. Normally, some 35,000 vehicles drive onto campus daily.

After police arrested four of the protesters, more than 100 others rushed through campus and occupied the office of university president Lorna Marsden.

Along the way they overturned the tables of the pro-American Canadian Alliance Party and, according to student Ya'akov Rath, pushed him to the ground.

Rath, who is campus president of Canadian Alliance, said he was attacked because he was "visibly Jewish." He added that the protesters tried to burn the booth's U.S. flag.

Miriam Levin, a second-year student in York's Jewish studies program, says she suffered verbal abuse from demonstrators who blocked her car from entering campus.

"I just rolled down my window and said, 'Making me late to class isn't going to help your cause,' and some guy started screaming at me that I was like the" Israeli army "and that I was like an occupier and a terrorist," she said.

Only later did Levin, who is active in several Jewish campus organizations, realize she had been identified as Jewish because of the tiny Stars of David in her earrings.

Shaken by the encounter, she went with a friend to report the incident to Marsden, not realizing that Marsden's office had been occupied.

Stepping from the elevator, Levin and her friend, Hannah Wortzman, found themselves surrounded by some 100 protesters.

"They surrounded us and started swearing at us and harassing us," Wortzman said. "I said to Miriam, 'Let's just get out of here.' But they were blocking the stairwell and the elevator."

After Levin started taking photographs with a disposable camera, a young woman began pushing her and grabbing for the camera.

Levin called for help but no one intervened, not even a nearby security guard.

Wortzman, meanwhile, dialed 911 on her cell phone.

Eventually the security guard helped them leave, and police filed charges against Levin's assailant.

"I was petrified," Wortzman said. "I thought they were going to beat me up. I'm petrified right now. I'm afraid to go to school."

"As we were talking to the police, some of the students were giving us a look as if to say, 'We're going to get you,'" she said. "It was a scary situation we were in."

Levin also called the experience traumatic.

"The thing that really bothered me was that we just came to the floor to speak to the president," she said. "It had nothing to do with Israel or the war or anything. It was just that we were Jewish, and they had recognized us."

These events come a month after pro-Palestinian students attempted to block pro-Israel academic Daniel Pipes from speaking at York.

It also follows several incidents at Montreal's Concordia University last fall, when pro-Palestinian rioters forced the cancellation of a speech by former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Several days later, a visibly Jewish student was beaten up on campus by an Arab student.

Many students and academics claim that the climate on Canadian campuses has become so antagonistic to Israel and Jews that they are afraid to speak their minds.

More than 100 people, including many notable writers and artists, signed a December ad to that effect in Toronto's *Globe and Mail* newspaper.

"The atmosphere on campus is getting heated, and has been heated for the entire year," said Shana Allen, director of York's Jewish Student Federation.

"It's unacceptable behavior when someone is assaulted," said Cim Nunn, a university spokesman. "It does sound as though there were a few individuals whose behavior was completely unacceptable." □

Conviction on hate crimes charges seen as a step forward for Ukraine

By Daniel MacIsaac

KIEV, Ukraine (JTA) — A four-year prison sentence given to a Ukrainian skinhead is being heralded as a significant step toward tolerance and democracy in this former Soviet republic.

The criminal conviction of Dmitry Volkov by a Kiev-based court is said to be the first under the country's hate-crime law since it was adopted by a newly independent Ukraine a decade ago.

Volkov, 27, was sentenced March 4 for his role in a widely publicized attack on the capital's central Brodsky Synagogue last year.

"While Article 161 of the Ukrainian Criminal Code has been used in criminal cases against publishers of anti-Semitic newspapers and magazines, none of those cases has resulted in criminal conviction," said Nickolai Butkevich of the Union of Councils for Jews in the Former Soviet Union.

On April 13, 2002, some 50 young men leaving a soccer game at nearby Olympic Stadium turned their attention on Brodsky Synagogue, where evening prayers had just concluded.

Uttering cries of "Kill the Jews," according to the chief rabbi of Kiev, Moshe-Reuven Azman, the youths hurled stones at the synagogue, breaking some 20 windows in the process. They proceeded to beat up a security guard, yeshiva rector Tsvi Kaplan as well as the rabbi's own son, Yorik.

Most of the attackers fled by the time police arrived. Eight people were detained at the scene, but it was not until August that the authorities arrested Volkov in the city of Poltava, east of Kiev.

Azman and the Jewish community labeled the attack a pogrom, and it quickly received worldwide attention.

Community members, including Eduard Dolinsky, executive director of the United Jewish Community of Ukraine, say the strategy of publicizing the episode was significant in forcing the authorities to take the matter seriously.

"We immediately held a press conference and announced that a pogrom had taken place," Dolinsky said. "We made that statement despite the fact that the Interior Ministry had already tried to play down the attack as a simple act of hooliganism by a bunch of soccer fans."

Dolinsky said Volkov's conviction — as well as those of five other accomplices, who received suspended sentences — proves the community acted wisely.

"The decision serves as a clear warning to others who might be tempted to imitate such an attack or commit similar acts of violence against the Jewish community," he said.

Aleksandr Shleyn, chairman of the International Anti-Fascist Committee, which helped represent the synagogue and community in court, agrees.

"Later this year, Kiev will be hosting an international congress dealing with issues of xenophobia and intolerance," Shleyn said. "We want to be able to show that we can all live together in Ukraine, regardless of a person's skin color or religion."

Butkevich added that he hopes the case will serve as a precedent.

"We hope that this will serve as an example for law enforcement agencies and courts throughout the country, where official reactions to anti-Semitic incidents are not always adequate," he said. □

Czech Jews happy as state readies a list of Communist collaborators

By Magnus Bennett

PRAGUE (JTA) — Czech Jewish leaders welcomed news that the state is poised to name all citizens who it says collaborated with the secret police under communism.

The Interior Ministry said March 6 that it would post a list of names on the Internet on March 20.

The list will include the names of past and current members of the Czech Jewish community, which was subjected to intimidation by the state during the Communist era in an operation known as Spider.

The news was welcomed by Tomas Jelinek, chairman of the Prague's Jewish community, who had been planning to research the issue in an effort to find out what happened during Spider.

"The list is useful because the Jewish community has to deal with these things," he said. "The question of who is on the list is not the issue. We need to find out what the role was of the Jewish community, how it was supervised, who was responsible" for the operation "and why the state wanted to register all Jews in the country."

He added that he would ask senior representatives of the Jewish community at the end of the month how they "intend to deal with the issue."

Leo Pavlat, director of Prague's Jewish Museum, also welcomed the publication of names, but said he opposes a witch hunt.

"People should not be automatically attacked as collaborators of the secret police," Pavlat said. "There were some cases in the past when people put on an unofficial list of collaborators proved their innocence in the law courts."

The issue must be taken very seriously because the reputation of the Czech Jewish community could be at stake, Pavlat argued. If someone in a high official Jewish post were found to have "caused harm" to the community or individuals within it, that person's position would become untenable, he said.

Tomas Kraus, executive director of the Czech Federation of Jewish Communities, said the Jewish community had dealt with cases which arose from an unofficial list of collaborators published 10 years ago, but that the current move would allow "a chapter of the past to be closed." □

Macedonian Jews want apology

NEW YORK (JTA) — An organization representing Macedonian Jewry is asking Bulgaria to apologize for sending Macedonian Jews to Nazi death camps.

The Macedonian Holocaust Fund, established last year, also is demanding that Bulgaria return confiscated Jewish property.

According to the head of the fund, Samuel Sadikario, Macedonia's Jewish community leader met with Bulgaria's foreign minister and proposed that Macedonia and Bulgaria negotiate the return of Jewish property, which his group values at approximately \$16.5 million.

Bulgaria allied with Nazi Germany during World War II, occupying present-day Macedonia and supervising the deportation of the country's Jews to Nazi camps. About 98 percent of the country's Jewish community was killed in the camps, leaving only a few hundred Jews remaining. □