



# Daily News Bulletin

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86th Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### End to military intifada in sight?

Mahmoud Abbas is expected to declare an end to the military part of the Palestinian intifada at this week's summit in Jordan.

The Palestinian Authority prime minister is expected to say that the "armed intifada must come to an end, and we will turn to peaceful measures," according to Israeli media reports.

The draft of the Palestinian statement, which reached Israeli diplomatic sources, also states that "we will invest all our efforts, while using all the means at our disposal, to alter the intifada's military nature, and we will succeed."

### Bush vows to work for peace

President Bush vowed to "put in as much time as necessary" to achieve Israeli-Palestinian peace.

Bush made his comments Monday in France before leaving for the Mideast, where he will attend summits with Arab leaders on Tuesday, and with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and his Palestinian counterpart, Mahmoud Abbas, on Wednesday.

### Eric Rudolph hates Jews

The U.S. white supremacist who was arrested over the weekend for four bombings, including an attack at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, "hated Jews more than probably any other race," his former sister-in-law, Deborah Rudolph, told ABC's "Good Morning America." Eric Rudolph was arrested Saturday in western North Carolina after a five-year search by investigators. [Page 3]

### German fund pays out

Holocaust survivors will receive \$15 million this year from German insurance firms in the first of 10 annual payouts.

The money from the fund will go to survivors in 37 countries, with survivors in Israel receiving some \$6 million and those in the United States getting \$2.4 million.

The money from the fund, formed through a 2002 agreement among German insurance companies, the German government and international Jewish groups, is being distributed by the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims, which has been criticized for the slow pace of its work and for high overhead costs.

## NEWS ANALYSIS

### Looking beyond the summit: Optimists and skeptics abound

By Leslie Susser

JERUSALEM (JTA) — A double dose of optimism and skepticism led up to this week's summit at the Red Sea resort of Aqaba, but what really matters is what comes next.

Hardened by past failures, Israelis and Palestinians alike recognize that there is still a long way to go, and a lot that could still go wrong after President Bush meets with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and his Palestinian counterpart, Mahmoud Abbas.

There are, for example, still dozens of warnings of planned terrorist attacks, and a new round of suicide bombings could quickly derail a reactivated peace process.

And even if the parties are able to make the first moves Bush is asking of them, they will encounter major problems further down the road: Will they be able to agree on the final size of the Palestinian state, on the extent of its sovereignty, on Jerusalem and the refugee question?

And what about the rejectionists on both sides? Will the Palestinians have the power to collect illegal weapons held by Hamas and Islamic Jihad? Will Israel be able to dismantle settlements?

In other words, can Abbas face down the fundamentalists and can Sharon deal with the settlers?

One far-right Israeli Cabinet minister, Avigdor Lieberman of Yisrael Beiteinu, warns that "any attempt to dismantle settlements will lead to civil war."

Despite all the questions, there was a fresh breath of optimism in the air this week. Israeli generals are talking about the end of the nearly three-year-long Palestinian uprising.

Palestinians are delighted by Sharon's unprecedented use of the term "occupation" — and are looking forward to its end.

And most importantly, both sides have been sobered by what they see as the American administration's newfound determination to put an end to the long conflict between them.

Indicative of the new mood, the Israeli stock market, sluggish during the intifada years, has been skyrocketing.

The Aqaba summit, designed to kick-start a new peace process, is first and foremost a statement about the degree of American commitment.

Bush, who had carefully kept his distance from the treacherous Israeli-Palestinian conflict, is now making clear that he intends to play an active role and to exert heavy pressure wherever necessary.

On Monday, Bush vowed to "put in as much time as necessary" to achieve Israeli-Palestinian peace.

Bush made his comments in France before leaving for the Middle East, where he was to attend summits in Egypt with Arab leaders on Tuesday, and in Jordan with Sharon and Abbas, on Wednesday.

In late May, the president assured the French newspaper *Le Figaro* that he would have no compunction about pressuring Sharon.

"If I were afraid to take the decisions necessary to move the process forward I wouldn't have gone on this trip to the Middle East," he declared.

A few days earlier, in a private conversation in the White House, Bush was reportedly asked how he could be sure Sharon would go along with him and make the

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Sharon could remove outposts

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is expected to announce at Wednesday's summit in Jordan plans to remove some illegal settlement outposts.

Israeli defense officials said Monday that the announcement would likely affect no more than 10 outposts. In another development, reports said President Bush would dispatch a senior envoy to the region following the summit to oversee implementation of the "road map."

### Hamas member convicted

An Israeli military court convicted a Hamas member of planning attacks in which 66 Israelis were killed and some 500 others wounded.

Abdullah Barghouti was convicted Sunday of building the bombs in several of the most devastating attacks in the past two years, including the Hebrew University cafeteria bombing, the suicide bombing at Jerusalem's Moment Café, a triple bombing at Jerusalem's Ben Yehuda pedestrian mall and the Sbarro pizzeria bombing.

Barghouti is not related to West Bank Fatah leader Marwan Barghouti, currently on trial in Israel. Prosecutors asked that he be given 66 consecutive life terms plus additional years. Sentencing will take place in July.

### Barghouti cites Sharon

Palestinian leader Marwan Barghouti used Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's recent statement against Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip to back his claim that Israel's charges against him are illegitimate.

Barghouti argued during his trial Monday that if Israel's own leader recognizes there is an occupation, it is logical to expect people to resist.

Barghouti is charged with involvement in terrorist attacks that killed 35 Israelis and wounded dozens.

necessary concessions. "Because he owes me," the president replied confidently.

Indeed, Sharon has a lot to thank the American president for.

The American-led war in Iraq removed a major strategic threat to Israel; the United States allowed Sharon virtually a free hand in fighting Palestinian terror; and in the run-up to Israel's acceptance of the American-inspired "road map" to peace, Bush gave the green light for a billion-dollar defense deal under which Israel is to supply India with state-of-the-art Falcon air-mounted command and control systems.

The president is also pressuring the Arab states to support the road map, and asking Egypt and Jordan to send ambassadors back to Israel as soon as there are tangible signs of progress.

For the Palestinians, too, the president's message will be clear: Stop the terror or nothing will go forward.

To underline just how serious they are, the Americans are sending in a team of about a dozen monitors, mostly CIA officials, to determine where the parties are carrying out their road map obligations — and where they are not.

And the word is that any side that creates obstacles will be publicly rebuked.

There are also conflicting reports about whether the president intends to send in a high-powered special envoy.

At the summit, the president was expected to say some of the things he hoped the Israelis and Palestinians would say themselves — reaffirming a two-state vision of Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace, and that to achieve it, the Palestinians must end terror and Israel must end the occupation. Bush was also expected to say that Israel must accept the notion of a Palestinian state and the Palestinians the notion of a Jewish state.

Two U.S. envoys now in the region, the State Department's William Burns and Elliott Abrams of the National Security Council, tried, apparently unsuccessfully, to get the Israeli and Palestinian leaders to make some of these statements at the summit themselves.

Sharon refused to repeat the term "occupation," because that might imply Israel had no right to any part of the "occupied" territories, and Abbas wouldn't recognize Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state, because that might imply Palestinian refugees had no "right of return" to Israel proper.

Instead, Sharon was expected to say that Israel is committed to Bush's vision of two states, that it has no wish to continue to rule over 3.5 million Palestinians, and that despite Israel's historic right to settle everywhere in the land of Israel, it will dismantle illegal settler outposts.

The dismantling of the outposts, said to number about 100, will be a major Israeli quid pro quo for a Palestinian cease-fire that sticks.

For his part, Abbas was expected to announce an end to the armed intifada, according to media reports, as well as declare Israel's right to exist in peace.

The draft of the Palestinian statement reportedly says that the "armed intifada must come to an end, and we will turn to peaceful measures."

"We will invest all our efforts, while using all the means at our disposal, to alter the intifada's military nature, and we will succeed," the Israeli paper, Ha'aretz reported Monday.

But Abbas' failure to commit to the notion of Israel as a Jewish state has led to renewed right-wing criticism of the entire road map approach.

Yuval Steinitz, chairman of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, says unless such a commitment is forthcoming, Israel should refuse to move into the second phase of the road map, which leads to the creation of a Palestinian mini-state.

Abbas, meanwhile, has said it will take weeks before Palestinian security forces are in a position to keep the peace. Still, the Palestinians have at least three very good reasons to achieve and maintain a cease-fire:

- the weakness of the post-Iraq Arab world;
- Sharon's planned security fence, which would leave them only small truncated areas of the West Bank if they don't cut a deal soon; and
- the fact that a triumphal George Bush is ready to lean on Israel.

If the Palestinians keep the cease-fire, and Bush pressures Israel to make major reciprocal moves, Sharon could be the one leader strong enough to make concessions and carry the country with him. □



## Daily News Bulletin

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## JEWISH WORLD

### British Jews complain to BBC

The umbrella organization for British Jews filed a complaint to the BBC regarding the profile of Israel that appears on the broadcaster's Web site.

The Board of Deputies of British Jewry says Israel's profile is inaccurate and misleading.

Among a number of inaccuracies the board cites is the implication that the failure to reach a peaceful settlement with the Palestinians lies solely with Israel.

Also criticized is the accusation that Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is solely responsible for triggering the current Palestinian intifada, despite evidence that the Palestinian Authority planned the uprising.

### N.J. yeshiva busing upheld

A New Jersey judge threw out a lawsuit alleging that the Lakewood, N.J., public schools discriminated against non-Jews by providing busing for yeshiva students.

Judge Steven Reback recently dismissed a lawsuit by former Lakewood school board member George Osborne, an executive committee member of the local NAACP, who charged that the board's policy of providing "courtesy busing" for local yeshiva students and for students of other private schools amounted to unconstitutional segregation.

The judge said the school system's eight-year-old policy was legal in part because it offered busing "on the same terms to all school children in its district, without regard to religion."

The Orthodox group Agudath Israel of America, which filed a brief opposing the challenge, lauded the ruling.

### Missionary event canceled

A missionary event in Ukraine was canceled following protests from a Jewish group.

The city hall in Lvov canceled a concert organized by a group called New Testament Jews after authorities received complaints from some Jewish activists.

### SARS fears postpones wedding

A Jewish wedding in Toronto was postponed because of a SARS quarantine.

Two days before Michelle Markowitz and Brad Goldsmith were to have been married last week at Toronto's Beth Shalom synagogue, the bride was forced into quarantine because of her job at a health care facility where a new cluster of SARS cases has been discovered.

Markowitz, 26, who works as an occupational therapist at St. John's Rehabilitation Hospital in Toronto, has shown no symptoms of the virus, which has claimed 30 victims in the city in recent months.

Many of their guests promised to return for the rescheduled ceremony in November.

## White supremacist had ties to Christian Identity movement

By Peter Ephross

NEW YORK (JTA) — Eric Rudolph, the U.S. white supremacist arrested over the weekend for four bombings, including an attack at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, was apparently motivated by an anti-Semitic ideology known as Christian Identity.

Rudolph, 36, also wrote a paper espousing Holocaust denial while in high school.

Although it is unknown whether Rudolph considers himself a formal follower of the group, in 1984 his family spent four months at a Christian Identity camp in Missouri and the family was friendly with Christian Identity preachers.

In addition, his belief system seems to coincide with what Identity followers espouse, according to experts on U.S. hate groups.

Christian Identity has its origins in Great Britain in the 1800s. During that time, an ideology known as British Israelism developed: Its followers believed that the British were descended from the ancient Israelites.

But only when Christian Identity migrated to North America at the end of the 19th and the early 20th centuries — where it found a home in New England, the Midwest and West — did the ideology take on anti-Semitic and racist overtones.

Adherents to Christian Identity on this continent believe that non-Jewish "white Europeans and their descendants elsewhere are descended from the lost tribes of Israel. Therefore, they're God's chosen people," said Mark Pitcavage, director of fact-finding for the Anti-Defamation League.

Others, including Jews, Asians and blacks, therefore, are inferior and sinister.

There are an estimated 25,000-50,000 Christian Identity followers in North America, according to Pitcavage.

Among these are members of the Aryan Nations, whose leader, Richard Butler, ran a 20-acre compound in Idaho until it was taken away from the group following a 1998 incident in which a teen-ager and his mother were beaten there.

Buford Furrow Jr., who is serving a life sentence in jail for killing a Filipino American postman and wounding five people at a Jewish community center in a 1999 shooting spree in Los Angeles, was a member of the Aryan Nations.

Some of the more theologically inclined Christian Identity followers believe that Jews are descended from a union between Eve and the biblical serpent that they say created Cain — and that Jews are descended from Cain, Pitcavage said.

They also believe in more than one biblical creation and that blacks and Asians — whom they call "mud people" — were created during "practice" creations.

But for all Christian Identity followers, anti-Semitism "is absolutely critical. Everything about Christian Identity is that Jews are Satanic and need to be eradicated," said Heidi Beirich, a spokeswoman for the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Rudolph was arrested Saturday in western North Carolina after a five-year search by investigators. In total, he is believed to be responsible for four bombings, in which two people were killed and 150 people injured.

This week, he agreed to be transferred to Alabama to face charges in one of the attacks, a 1998 bombing at an abortion clinic in Birmingham in which an off-duty police officer was killed. He also allegedly bombed a gay nightclub and another abortion clinic.

But Jews came in for particular hatred, said his former sister-in-law.

Rudolph "hated Jews more than probably any other race," Deborah Rudolph, who is divorced from Rudolph's brother, Joel, told ABC's "Good Morning America."

He "felt that, you know, they've been run out of every country they've ever been in. They've destroyed every country they've ever been in. They have too much control in our country," she said.

He considered the TV "The Electronic Jew," she said in an interview a few years ago.

As a ninth-grader, he wrote the paper denying the Holocaust. "Eric's paper saying that the Holocaust never happened, this was Eric's and Joel's and the whole family's deal," Deborah Rudolph said in the interview. □

## At European JCC conference, it's time to shmooze and share

By Philip Carmel

PARIS (JTA) — Riga's 9,000-strong Jewish community already has penciled in Aug. 16 as a central event on its calendar.

On that date — which corresponds to the 15th of Av on the Hebrew calendar — the 15th Jewish couple who met through the city's Jewish community center will get married.

Viktoria Gubatova is going to town for the occasion. Gubatova intends to have the women decked out in white dresses surrounded by a serenading troop of men, an attempt to recreate the talmudic festival of love marked on the 15th of Av.

Gubatova is the driving force behind Riga's JCC, and one of two delegates from the Latvian capital who attended last week's first European Conference of Jewish Community Centers that was held over three days at the Paris JCC.

Like the other 150 or so delegates from 22 countries, Gubatova has her own concept of what makes a JCC tick — and she came to Paris to share it with other participants, as well as to pick up tips from them.

The former Soviet Union now boasts around 180 JCCs, more than three times more than in Western Europe.

"Now, though, we have a different problem," Gubatova said. "Many Jews left Latvia in recent years, and many that remained feel alone. These people were accustomed to being among Jews. Our job is to interact with these people."

Bulgaria, where the community is of a similar size as Latvia's, also is using JCCs to promote Jewish organization.

The Shalom umbrella organization has 19 branches throughout the country, each of which has a kindergarten and school. The organization recently set up a "leadership school" to prepare teenagers to act as counselors or advisers to younger members of the community, said Sara Cohen, Shalom's organizer in Sofia, Bulgaria's capital.

Jo Zrihen is equally proud of the Paris community center, though his model bears little resemblance to those in Eastern Europe and probably even less to JCCs in North America.

Located in the heart of the French capital, the Paris JCC serves the whole of the Paris community, which numbers at least 250,000.

The center's function is "to act as a place to meet and find Jewish identity," Zrihen said.

But the center also has a role beyond the Jewish community — its events attract non-Jews as well, he says.

"This center is open, tolerant and pluralistic. It is community-based rather than 'communautariste,' " or sectarian, Zrihen said.

Jerry Spritzer, president of the World Confederation of JCCs, says the fact that Jewish community centers can play such different roles in different countries is symbolic of the centers' inherent pluralism.

"To form any kind of network between Jews of different backgrounds means that we need to be broad in our outlook," Spritzer told JTA. "Of all the Jewish institutions, the JCC is the one broad enough to allow for diversity."

Spritzer accepts that the role of the JCC has evolved greatly over the years. Originally it was a North American phenomenon, he said. When immigrants came from Eastern Europe, "settlement houses" — forerunners of today's JCCs — "helped them to

acclimatize to the new culture. People were taught English and how to settle in American society," he said.

Today, however, the focus has changed from acculturation to educating and bringing Jewish culture closer to Jews — "putting the J back into JCC," in the words of Smadar Bar-Akiva, the world confederation's executive director.

She hopes that the Paris conference — the first pan-European JCC venture — will encourage Jewish peoplehood and pluralism, and encourage more JCCs to engage professional Jewish educators, Bar-Akiva said.

The idea of associated European JCCs is a fairly recent concept in the movement. The Paris conference came about largely as an initiative of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and the European Council of Jewish Communities.

The European conference was important for building links between JCCs across Europe, Bar-Akiva said, but also was a recognition that JCCs are entering a new era with new challenges.

That point was emphasized by Alberto Senderey, from the JDC's Paris office.

There is a need to identify JCCs' potential clients in the 21st century and adapt the centers to different community needs, he said. "Our challenge is to identify what the post-modern Jew is looking for," Senderey said.

Jews today can't be easily pigeonholed, he said, noting that modern Jews often pick and choose aspects of their identity from both Jewish culture and the wider society.

"There are Jews who eat kosher at home but not outside; there are mixed marriages where both cultures are practiced," he said. "We have to prepare for" people "for whom contradiction is not a problem."

JCC therefore must "create situations and not just buildings," he said. "We need to create living rooms" where "Jews meet other Jews to do something Jewish."

The conference also emphasized the bond between more established JCCs in North America and newer ones in Europe.

North American JCCs aren't looking "to impose our own model, but to showcase our laboratory structure," said Lester Pollack, former head of the North American JCC federation and a past chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. "It's up to them to pick and choose what works for them," he said.

Similar views were expressed by the current head of the North American JCC federation, Allan Finkelstein. Individual centers are shaped by their own society and community, he said.

But "one glue binds us together — building people-to-people relationships with Israel," he said. Ultimately, Finkelstein said, JCCs share a common goal and ideology and should always be aware that they are "larger than the local community."

Nowhere is that more evident than in the countries of the former Soviet Union. Eastern European delegates at the conference could benefit immensely from the experience of JCCs in western Europe and the United States, said Margarita Drozdinskaya, a delegate from Moscow.

The 1990s, when communities in Eastern Europe began to rebuild after the fall of communism, "were a romantic period for us," she told delegates.

"Now it's time for a period of analysis, to look back and learn from our mistakes," she said. "We adopted Western ideas, but we cannot copy them identically." □