



# Daily News Bulletin

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## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Senior Hamas leader wounded

Senior Hamas official Abdel Aziz Rantissi was wounded in an Israeli helicopter strike in Gaza City on Tuesday.

Later Tuesday, Israel killed at least three Palestinians and wounded 30 in a separate attack elsewhere in Gaza.

Hamas vowed revenge for Tuesday's assassination attempt, which killed two bystanders. President Bush criticized the strike, saying it "does not contribute to the security of Israel."

Palestinian Authority officials also blasted the attack, but P.A. Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas — who called it terrorism — said it would not halt progress on the "road map" peace plan.

Two dozen people were wounded in addition to Rantissi. Israel believes Rantissi played a vital role in organizing Sunday's attack in the Gaza Strip that killed four soldiers.

### Three armed Palestinians killed

Israeli troops killed three armed Palestinians in separate incidents in the Gaza Strip.

Troops killed an armed Palestinian who approached the greenhouse area on Monday night in the southern Gaza Strip, Israel Radio reported.

Earlier, troops killed two terrorists near the Gaza settlement of Netzarim.

### Putin: Russia suspends Iran sales

Russia has suspended delivery of nuclear materials to Iran until there is more transparency in Tehran's use of sensitive technologies, President Vladimir Putin told visiting U.S. Jewish leaders. [Page 3]

### Red Cross to help relief agency

The International Committee of the Red Cross and the Magen David Adom relief agency signed their first cooperation agreement on Tuesday.

Francois Bellon, head of the ICRC delegation, said the agreement was "to assist the MDA in its tireless efforts to save lives and alleviate human suffering, without discrimination."

MDA's emergency medical service, which includes funding to train paramedics, is the key focus of ICRC support, according to an ICRC news release. The two groups had not signed any previous agreements because of pressure from Arab and Muslim countries.

## Head of federation system unveils long-awaited vision

By Rachel Pomerance

NEW YORK (JTA) — The North American federation system got a glimpse this week of the vision it long has been seeking.

In an address Monday to the United Jewish Communities board of trustees, CEO Stephen Hoffman presented a vigorous plan to overhaul the federation umbrella group, which has been under intense scrutiny over the four years of its existence about its purpose, vision and structure. Among his goals, Hoffman said, is for the UJC to become "the smartest place on earth about solutions to local and global Jewish issues."

His message came just before the UJC Delegate Assembly approved the 2003-2004 budget of \$38.3 million, a 9.5 percent cut from the previous year.

Cost-cutting measures include eliminating UJC's university programs division and Trust for Jewish Philanthropy, and deep cuts in its Campaign/Financial Resource Development and Israel Overseas departments. The budget decrease means an across-the-board, 9.5 percent cut in local federations' dues to the umbrella organization.

The reduction is part of Hoffman's plan to streamline the system and is a response to complaints from many federations about the UJC's high operating costs in pressing economic and political times.

Critics from local federations also have cited the system's failure to engage them and provide them with critical services, along with its inability to garner sufficient funds for the UJC's overseas agencies, the Jewish Agency for Israel and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

Hoffman's vision, which was greeted with enthusiasm, even from some of the system's greatest critics, comes after working with prominent outside consultants from McKinsey & Company and Atid Consulting to survey 200 federation professionals and volunteers for their views. The plan is a broad overhaul of the system to fix its problems and keep up with changing Jewish communities at a time of intense global needs.

"As some of you know, there has been a continuing debate about what we're going to be when we grow up, with lots of family members giving us advice," Hoffman said as he headlined his Powerpoint presentation to the trustees.

He then described seemingly irreconcilable views within the UJC that have stunted its growth: Should it serve merely as a trade association, or exert a leadership role in the national federation system? Should its support for federations' fund-raising campaigns be bolstered or shut down?

Hoffman seemed to leave such questions aside with a vision he pared down to three general "areas of focus." He said UJC should be a "vehicle for global Jewish responsibility," an engine of innovation and an organization that must strengthen the federations.

Asked if his vision answers elemental questions about the UJC, Hoffman told JTA in an extensive interview after the meeting, "Partly. We're putting a stake in the ground."

"We're saying we're going to lead. We're not going to just follow," he said. "I guess I'm trying to break away from all those questions" and "escape from the conventional frameworks that others may have been trying to impose on us in the past by saying what we're going to be, and this is what you're going to look to us to do."

Among the key points Hoffman outlined:

- The UJC will "revamp" overseas and domestic allocations with "oversight to ensure that allocations are based on priorities, not history." The UJC will rely more on "collaboration than compliance" in determining federations' overseas allocations. It will "rethink and reconfigure the nature of the relationship with overseas partners."

Hoffman didn't elaborate on what he meant, but some sources say the statements

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Israeli official may face charges

Legal proceedings against a senior Israeli official for alleged crimes against humanity can continue, a Belgian court ruled.

Tuesday's court decision concerned a lawsuit filed under Belgium's universal jurisdiction law by Palestinian survivors of the 1982 Sabra and Shatila massacre, carried out by Lebanese Christian militias.

The suit was filed against Amos Yaron, commander of Israeli forces in Beirut at the time and currently director general of Israel's Defense Ministry.

### Israel, E.U. renew deal

Israel and the European Union renewed a scientific cooperation deal in areas including biotechnology and aeronautics.

Under Tuesday's agreement in Brussels, Israel will contribute more than \$200 million to the roughly \$20 billion program. Israel remains the only non-European country to contribute financially to the program.

### Palestinian kids take exams

Israel is allowing Palestinian students in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to take high school matriculation exams. This week, more than 25,000 students will take the exams in the West Bank and Gaza, and 4,000 in eastern Jerusalem and Israeli prisons.

Palestinian schools repeatedly have been interrupted during the past few years because of ongoing violence.

### Registry of property claims grows

Israel is expanding its registry of property claims from Jews who immigrated to Israel from Arab countries. The registry being compiled by Israel's Justice Ministry will electronically archive thousands of forms filed by immigrants from Arab nations in the 1950s that shed light on what they left behind.

seem to refer to the longtime 75-25 split in overseas allocations in favor of the Jewish Agency, which handles immigration and absorption in Israel.

With increasing humanitarian needs abroad, it could mean more funds for the JDC, which provides relief and welfare abroad. Others say the real issue shouldn't be examining or changing the split, but raising more money for overseas needs.

- The UJC's "old models are fraying around the edges," and don't necessarily serve "communities of the future," such as those in the South and West.

- The UJC research and development department will challenge "basic assumptions about how we raise money," such as engaging "mega-donors" and enhancing the UJC's in-house consulting staff.

- The UJC will strengthen federations by working to "achieve economies of scale in a cost-pressured environment." It will strive to engage local leadership more intensely and provide them with "intensive, high-impact consulting."

- The UJC will recruit and retain a top team of professionals. It will change the organization's culture toward a "customer-focused and impact-focused organization."

The room of trustees appeared to eagerly support Hoffman's plan.

"I think that you have set the framework, if not the groundwork, for a very positive moving forward, recognizing that the system we had before cannot be the system we have now," said Shoshana Cardin of Baltimore, a veteran federation leader who recently has been an outspoken critic of UJC.

"Yesterday was an important first step in a process that will lead to a real vision and focused plan for UJC," said Richard Wexler of Chicago, a member of the UJC budget committee. Getting further input from a broader base of federation leadership is "going to be the critical next step, I think, to make any plan viable."

But some supporters expressed concern over whether the vision would be fulfilled, with Hoffman slated to leave his post in just one year. Even Hoffman noted the challenges of recruiting talent, for example, with his departure approaching.

In the interview with JTA, however, he was more optimistic.

"I don't believe UJC is about any one person," he said. He spoke of the continuity in lay leadership with Robert Goldberg of Cleveland, who in November will move from chairman of the executive committee to chairman of the board, and Morton Plant of Baltimore, who will move from treasurer to chairman of the executive committee.

Hoffman also pointed to the recent hiring of some UJC professionals, including Robert Hyfler, a Jewish federation professional for more than 20 years, who was named UJC senior vice president of research and development.

In the meantime, the board of trustees moved to address one of the loudest concerns among federation leaders: the underfunding of overseas needs. The board of trustees passed a resolution Monday recommending that federations disburse all of the money saved from their dues reduction to the federation system's overseas pot.

The UJC was formed, in part, to reverse declining allocations from federations to overseas needs. While the UJC has somewhat stanching the drop in allocations, federations still are falling short of UJC recommendations.

The issue has frustrated the organization's overseas partners, with the JDC circumventing the UJC to solicit individual federations directly.

"The savings on the UJC budget represent a meaningful resource for meeting" overseas needs, which "have not been adequately addressed for many years," James Tisch, UJC's outgoing chairman of the board, wrote to the board of trustees on June 9.

The memo urged federations to allocate half of their savings to overseas needs, but the board went further, approving an amended resolution increasing the recommendation to 100 percent of federation savings.

But some federation leaders doubted the resolution would have any effect. One said past non-binding recommendations related to overseas allocations did not produce any results. Another leader noted that most federations already had determined their budgets based on the dues reduction, and therefore were not likely to change them.

It also seems unlikely that federations, many of whose campaigns are struggling and for whom the budget was cut, will have extra money to put back into the pot.

But Hoffman questioned that logic.

"We have federations in lots of different circumstances," he said. "We have enough federations that are having good years" that they can "do a mitzvah for the needs overseas." □



## Daily News Bulletin

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## JEWISH WORLD

### Groups 'troubled' by Bush's words

The Anti-Defamation League and Orthodox Jewish groups are both upset by President Bush's criticism of Israel's attempt to assassinate a senior Hamas leader.

Israel retaliated for the killing of four of its soldiers Sunday by striking at Abdel Aziz Rantissi with helicopters on Tuesday. Rantissi was wounded and two bystanders were killed in the attack.

"I'm concerned that the attacks will make it more difficult for the Palestinian leadership to fight off terrorist attacks," Bush told reporters Tuesday. "I also don't believe the attacks helped Israeli security."

While praising Bush's efforts to bring peace to the Middle East, the ADL said it believes that "Israel, like the U.S., has the right to defend itself from terrorism."

### Kosher slaughter to be cut?

British Jews are criticizing recommendations from an animal welfare body that would effectively outlaw kosher slaughter in the United Kingdom.

"The Jewish community is completely opposed to the Farm Animal Welfare Council's recommendation in favor of stunning" animals before killing them, said Henry Grunwald, the president of the umbrella Board of Deputies.

Rabbinic authorities have ruled that stunning an animal before slaughter violates the requirement that it be unharmed when killed.

Muslim dietary restrictions also would be affected by a ban.

The council recommendation now goes to the government for consideration.

### UJC launches Ethiopian program

The United Jewish Communities is launching an Ethiopian National Project to absorb and educate Ethiopians in Israel.

The program, announced at UJC's board of trustees meeting Monday in Washington, would target the six largest Ethiopian communities in Israel.

The UJC began to address Ethiopian absorption in Israel with the intent to develop a plan just before the outbreak of the Palestinian uprising in 2000.

The project, now slated to start in September, "got caught in history" amid Mideast violence and world needs, according to Karen Shapira, who chairs the project's advocacy committee.

The UJC is seeking \$10 million for the project's first year — \$5 million from the Israeli government and \$5 million from world Jewry, mostly from the federation system.

The UJC has not yet determined how much it will need to start the project or how many years it would last.

## Seeking better ties to America, Putin says he'll keep eye on Iran

By Lev Krichevsky

MOSCOW (JTA) — Russia has suspended delivery of nuclear materials to Iran until there is more transparency in Tehran's use of sensitive technologies, President Vladimir Putin told a visiting delegation of U.S. Jewish leaders.

Putin said Moscow would seek additional guarantees from Tehran that Russian technologies are not being used to produce weapons of mass destruction. Putin acknowledged that materials sold to Iran carry a potentially great threat of being used as weaponry because of Iran's support of terrorism.

Members of the American delegation, who found themselves embroiled in a rivalry within the Russian Jewish community, had no immediate reaction to Putin's pledges.

Delegation members promised Putin to work for Russia's graduation from the Jackson-Vanik amendment, a Soviet-era vestige that ties Russian trade relations with the United States to Russian Jews' freedom to emigrate.

"We will do whatever possible so that this issue in the relations between Russia and the United States is finally resolved," James Tisch, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said after the meeting.

The Tuesday night meeting at the Kremlin ran for two and a half hours and touched on an array of issues, including Russia's relations with the United States and Israel, the situation in the Middle East and the teaching of tolerance in Russian schools.

"Putin was very forthcoming, very articulate," Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents, told JTA. "It was a very positive, very intensive discussion. Nobody expected it to be that long."

"He made it clear that rapprochement between the United States and Russia is not a tactical but a strategic goal for Russia," said Robert Meth, chairman of NCSJ, Advocates on Behalf of Jews in Russia, Ukraine, the Baltic States and Eurasia. "He underscored that this issue was his utmost priority."

The meeting took place while Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom was in Moscow for talks with his Russian counterpart. On Monday, Shalom told Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov that Israel would like to give Moscow a greater role in the peace process now that the Israeli government has endorsed the "road map" peace plan.

The Russian contribution could be even more meaningful since Israel fears that the United Nations and the European Union — which, with Russia, helped the United States draft the plan — are being subjected to strong pro-Arab pressure.

The Kremlin meeting touched sensitive chords for some leaders in the Russian Jewish community, who said the American Jewish delegation met Putin before holding any formal consultation with part of the local community.

Lev Leviev, an Israeli industrialist and president of the Federation of Jewish Communities of the CIS, who is known for his good ties with the Kremlin, helped arrange the audience for the U.S. delegation. Berel Lazar, one of Russia's two chief rabbis and the leader of the federation, was among two non-Americans who joined the Jewish delegation. The other was another federation official.

Evgeny Satanovsky, president of the Russian Jewish Congress, another umbrella group of Russian Jews that rivals the federation, said he was outraged by the fact that some of the community was excluded from decision-making before the meeting with Putin.

"This meeting was hijacked by part of the community leadership," he told JTA. "I'm dismayed by the fact that the Russian community was not aware what exactly our American colleagues were going to discuss with the Russian president."

He said the Kremlin meeting furthered the communal split between the congress and the federation, blaming the Conference of Presidents for participating in "lobbying efforts to advance" the federation's interests in the Kremlin.

"To us it looks like the Conference of Presidents' leadership simply ignored the leadership of the Russian Jewish community," Satanovsky said.

Hoenlein dismissed the accusations.

"This was a meeting of the American Jewish leadership," he told JTA. "We didn't deal with domestic issues. We dealt with international issues." □

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES

**At West Bank outposts, settlers prepare to meet army bulldozers**

By Matthew Gutman

TEL AVIV (JTA) — “This is the real war,” said Itai Zar, the founder and spiritual leader of Gilad’s Farm, a settlement outpost just over the hill from Nablus in the West Bank.

It was 4 a.m. on Tuesday. An orange half moon had dropped behind the Tel Aviv skyline to the west; a fog blanketed the hill.

The flesh on Zar’s cherubic face sagged. It was partly from defeat — 10 outposts had been dismantled by Israeli soldiers Sunday, and five more were slated to be torn down — and partly from a keen sense of betrayal that weighed on the young leader.

Referring to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon’s decision to begin the immediate evacuation of 94 settlement outposts, most of them unpopulated, Zar pledged that settlers would pour all their resources into preventing “this betrayal of the land.”

“Unfortunately,” one of Zar’s cohorts said, Sharon “is more afraid of President Bush than of God Almighty, and that is a problem.”

The man was speaking in the cramped tent that serves as the Zar family home. Outside, dozens of young men, some swaddled in Jewish prayer shawls against the cold, had decamped. They pulled out their guitars, sleeping bags and prayer books and prepared to “guard the community.”

Gilad’s Farm, named after Zar’s brother Gilad, who was shot dead by Palestinian terrorists in an ambush not far from the outpost two years ago Sunday, is the nexus of the settlers’ feverish campaign to thwart the evacuation, planned for this week, of four populated outposts and one abandoned site.

Some zealous youths hitchhiked to the outpost’s lonely hilltop. Others drove dented sedans plastered with bumper stickers reading “No Arabs, no terror” into the encampment, which was eerily lit by floodlights and campfires obscured by fog.

On Tuesday evening, Supreme Court justices met to deliberate on the demolition of Gilad’s Farm, the Israeli daily Ha’aretz reported. The petition presented to the court includes documents attempting to prove that members of the Zar family legally own the land and live there under official authorization. In response, the state claimed that the family does not own the land.

Across the northern West Bank, hundreds of settlers converged on outposts to block the army from demolishing them. The evacuation effort, dubbed Operation Naked Hilltop, could last for several days.

The evacuations were hailed by Washington, which has demanded that Israel demolish the outposts under the “road map” peace plan. But Palestinian officials greeted the step with derision, Ha’aretz reported.

“This is a theatrical and insignificant step,” said Nabil Abu Rudeineh, an aide to Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat.

Gilad’s Farm — a clump of a half-dozen semi-permanent structures planted on the bald hilltop — had a carnival feel in the early hours of Tuesday. An unsuspecting bystander — if there is such a thing regarding such a controversial issue — might have mistaken it for a hippie youth festival.

Wide-eyed youth, some barely in their teens, stalked the camp. The more veteran activists sat up late into the night under a blanket

of stars, their voices screeching songs by the campfires.

Some boys used the lid of an old paint bucket as a Frisbee, flinging it at each other in the dim light.

The army has evacuated Gilad’s Farm four times in recent years, but each time the settlers have rebuilt it. The most recent demolition was in October 2002, when the evacuation sparked violent clashes between settlers and soldiers.

Some of the youth, veterans of previous such “campaigns,” remained sullen and vigilant as the night wore on and news trickled in on walkie-talkies of the dismantling of a water tower here, a metal shipping container there.

Inside Zar’s tent the mood was grave. His comrades gathered under the canvas, sitting on makeshift couches fitted with Arabic-style cushions. Some cradled babies swaddled in blankets. They discussed their own unique brand of politics, a cocktail of religious messianism and the hard-nosed practicality of political activists.

Red lines, bridges and all matter of rhetorical boundaries have been crossed, the activists said. It is time to take the battle to Sharon, for years the patron of the settlement movement. Some joked about sending bulldozers to Sharon’s ranch in the Negev, to “see how he feels when someone tries to rip apart his home.”

The anger toward Sharon is palpable. Settlers have passed from shock — over Sharon’s recent comments about Israel’s “occupation” of the Palestinians — to indignation over his moves to dismantle outposts.

Sharon, they feel, is blind to the Palestinians’ true intentions — the destruction of the State of Israel, the outpost youth say.

“We are the ones that will die from his blindness,” one woman said. “How can we make peace with those that are sworn to our destruction?”

The activists pay little heed to the views of the majority of Israelis, who see the illegal encampments as a primary obstacle to peace and security, according to some recent polls.

“Security, security,” Zar said as he rose from the couch slowly, angry but tired, and walked over to an aerial map of the region.

Finger lightly brushing the green- and brown-shaded photograph, he traced his way from Nablus to a Palestinian village called Farta’a.

An Israeli army officer “told us that our presence here has blocked the route of terrorists to Israel,” Zar said. “So how can people say we are detrimental to security?”

Zar and his family had left most of their meager possessions — including an ancient air conditioner, a Sony boombox and several dozen books of Talmud and Gemarah — in the tent, knowing that they may well be ground into the earth when the outpost is removed.

Asked why he had not removed his possessions in the face of the expected onslaught, Zar said, “We have to believe, and we have to show the kids that we still have hope.”

Until last week, the settlers’ Yesha Council was cautious not to rouse the ire of Sharon, as well as their right-wing sympathizers in the government. Now, with Israel beginning to dismantle outposts while Palestinian terror attacks continue apace, the council has said it will oppose the evacuations.

For every outpost removed, Yesha officials pledged in a news conference Monday, five more will be erected. The National Religious Party and National Union have called an additional evacuation of inhabited outposts a “red line” that would compel them to leave the government. □