



# Daily News Bulletin

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86th Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Pollard has his day

Convicted spy Jonathan Pollard returned to a U.S. court Tuesday. A U.S. judge will consider Pollard's request to reduce his sentence and set him free.

A former U.S. Navy analyst, Pollard was convicted in 1987 of passing on secret documents to Israel and was given a life sentence.

His case has become a cause celebre among some in the American Jewish community who maintain that the sentence is too harsh. [Page 3]

### Hope for Morocco-Israel ties

Morocco may re-establish some diplomatic ties with Israel. The two countries established a team to work toward reinstating bilateral ties, which were curtailed after the launching of the Palestinian intifada in September 2000.

The agreement came after a meeting Tuesday between Moroccan King Mohammed VI and Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom.

### Mofaz: Kick Arafat out

Israel might need to expel Yasser Arafat, Israel's defense minister said.

Shaul Mofaz said Israel had erred in not expelling the Palestinian Authority president sooner. "Arafat never wanted to reach an agreement with us," Mofaz told Israel Army Radio. "He needs to disappear from the stage of history."

In Washington, the U.S. State Department said it believes Israel will not expel Arafat, and supports that position. Israel has isolated Arafat in his Ramallah compound for the past 18 months.

### Sanford Solender dies

Sanford Solender, former executive vice president of the UJA-Federation of New York, died Saturday at age 89.

Solender, the father of Stephen Solender, the former president of the United Jewish Communities federation umbrella group, headed the New York federation from 1970 to 1981. From 1948 to 1970 he was an executive with the National Jewish Welfare Board.

"Sanford Solender was a legendary figure in the realm of Jewish communal service," said John Ruskay, executive vice president of UJA-Federation of New York.

## UJC to release long-awaited survey of American Jewish life

By Joe Berkofsky

NEW YORK (JTA) — After nearly a year of controversy and delay, the 2000-01 National Jewish Population Survey — billed as the most comprehensive study ever of U.S. Jewry — is due to be made public next week.

The release comes nearly 10 months after the study's sponsors halted its initial publication amid questions over methodology and findings.

Those questions sparked first an internal audit by the sponsor, the United Jewish Communities federation umbrella, and then an independent review, which also is scheduled to be released next week.

Slated to be among the study's key findings are the size of the U.S. Jewish population and its geographic spread, age and income, and birth and marriage rates.

The study also will reveal such identity-related issues as levels of Jewish education, philanthropy, movement and synagogue affiliation, and religious observance.

These findings could shape spending and programming policy for many Jewish federations and Jewish communal organizations in areas from Jewish camps to outreach to the intermarried.

The NJPS "will provide a picture of where we're at," said Paul Golin, spokesman for the Jewish Outreach Institute, which works to make unaffiliated Jews more active.

Such large studies enable Jewish organizations to "step back and see whether what you're doing is having an impact."

Whether the extensive data the NJPS promises will help restore the study's tarnished credibility or whether controversy will continue to overshadow the results remains to be seen.

Steven Cohen, a Hebrew University sociologist and research consultant to the NJPS for the UJC, says the rich trove of data in the study ultimately will prove its worth.

"Overall, I am convinced the results of this methodologically difficult process are quite credible, believable and usable," Cohen said.

Though the "NJPS's credibility is now at its low point," he said, "I expect it to recover."

Stephen Hoffman, UJC's president and chief executive officer, told JTA he was confident the study has "full value."

"There have been some times, in the middle of the night, when I have thought about whether I took the correct course delaying release of the data last fall," he said.

"But after seeing the quality of the data and the high degree of confidence surrounding it, I know that the decision was correct."

Egon Mayer, a City University of New York sociologist and member of the National Technical Advisory Committee, which consulted on the NJPS, agreed that researchers likely will mine a rich vein of data buried in the NJPS.

But typical Jews on the street may pay little attention to the results, Mayer said. "Because there's been so much controversy over the methodology itself, no finding is going to have the authority of a major headline," Mayer said. "The major headline is that it's coming out."

The 1990 NJPS made headlines chiefly because it found that more than half of Jews who had married in the previous five years had wed non-Jews.

That finding fueled public policy debates that continue to this day over whether communal dollars should be spent on reinforcing Jewish identity among those already active or on reaching out to Jews on the fringes of the community.

Despite debate even over the validity of the 52 percent intermarriage conclusion,

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### New riots investigation launched

Israeli officials launched a new investigation into police behavior in the killing of 12 Israeli Arabs and a Palestinian in October 2000 riots.

The Justice Ministry's Police Investigation Department launched the inquiry following the release of the Orr Commission report into the riots. The Orr report, released Monday, was critical of the police, including former commander Yehuda Wilk, for their relations with the Arab sector.

### Report: Arad may be alive

Ron Arad, the Israeli navigator captured when his plane was shot down over Lebanon in 1986, is probably still alive, a new report says.

There is no evidence to refute the assumption that Arad is still alive, Israel's Channel One reported, citing a study presented to the Israeli army's chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Moshe Ya'alon.

After Arad bailed out of his fighter plane, he was believed to have been captured and held by pro-Irani troops in Lebanon. The last time a message was received that he was alive was in October 1987.

### Armed Palestinian killed

Israeli soldiers killed an armed Palestinian in the West Bank.

The man was killed Tuesday near Jenin when he got out of his car and pulled out a gun after his vehicle was stopped by soldiers, according to Israel's daily Ha'aretz.

### Palestinian girl dies of wounds

A Palestinian girl died of wounds suffered in one of last week's Israeli strikes in Gaza.

The 11-year-old girl brings the number of fatalities in the Aug. 26 strike to three. The attack, which killed two other bystanders, missed its main target.



## Daily News Bulletin

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Mayer says, "there wasn't a global questioning of the whole study, which may or may not be warranted" in this case.

Yet in the world of Jewish demographics, many predict that the study's findings will emerge from the shadow of controversy. Among them is another NJPS advisory committee member, Ira Sheskin, a University of Miami geography professor who has led dozens of studies of local Jewish communities.

"As people get into the data and see the wealth of data that's there and see the data is reasonable, the criticism is going to melt away," Sheskin said. "Hopefully, a good picture of the Jewish community in the 21st century will emerge."

According to Cohen, the study can be analyzed on three levels — the "least robust" of which is the population estimate, because it was based in part on what he called assumptions of who is a Jew and in part on who responded.

According to the study's initial findings, which were released in October 2002, there were 5.2 million U.S. Jews, down about 5 percent from the 5.5 million found in 1990.

Others have challenged that number.

Gary Tobin, a vocal critic of the NJPS and president of the Institute for Jewish and Community Research in San Francisco, conducted a survey in September 2002 that found 6.7 million Jews, far higher than the NJPS estimate or the 6.1 million that came from local studies for the 2001 American Jewish Year Book.

The NJPS population estimate arose from 4,500 interviews of Jewish households between August 2000 and 2001 out of 177,000 Americans randomly selected.

The survey's response rate of about 28 percent has been criticized by some, including Calvin Goldscheider, a Brown University sociologist. Goldscheider calls the response rate "an amber light, not a red light," for the study.

Some population studies with smaller samples can correct their findings with more massive external studies such as the U.S. Census, but the NJPS cannot do that, he said.

"There is no external information" about U.S. Jewry, he said. "That's why this study was done."

But others defended the NJPS sample size as in line with industry standards.

Mayer and Sheskin, for instance, said that response rates generally are down for studies that use similar methods, such as the Gallup Poll or other opinion surveys.

"The response rate in surveys in general has been declining for about a decade, and I don't see any sector of the public opinion industry rolling over and playing dead," Mayer said.

Cohen said the strongest part of the NJPS concerns "the relationships between variables," such as whether greater Jewish education produces greater observance.

The parts of the study that deal with certain population sectors, such as denomination trends, are "a little shakier," he said, but still "close enough" so that policy conclusions can be drawn from them.

Last April, the UJC issued the results of an internal review of such problems as missing data that cited "limitations and qualifications" with the NJPS.

That report prompted the UJC to launch an independent analysis of the methodology of the NJPS, led by Mark Schulman of the polling firm Schulman, Ronca & Bucavalas, Inc.

That analysis is expected to be released some time next week as well. Schulman did not return calls seeking comment.

Leonard Saxe, director of the Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies at Brandeis University, where the National Jewish Data Bank that will store the NJPS has just moved, said the key issue is that all the NJPS data will be made public.

"If people want to reweight the data, if they want to challenge the conclusions, they will be able to do that," he said. □

## \$1 million for FSU Jews

NEW YORK (JTA) — An interfaith group is donating \$1 million to help the Jewish elderly in the former Soviet Union. The money from the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews will go to support the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee's Hesed network.

The fellowship has contributed \$10 million during the past three years to help elderly Jews in the former Soviet Union. □

## JEWISH WORLD

### Missionary cleared on spying

A Lebanese court cleared a Canadian missionary of charges of spying for Israel.

The court found Monday that Bruce Balfour was guilty of stirring religious strife but sentenced him only to time served. Prosecutors had accused Balfour, who was arrested in July, of spying on Hezbollah for Israel.

Balfour's organization, Cedars of Lebanon, is dedicated to reviving Lebanon's cedar forests.

### 'Judge, are you religious?'

The Orthodox Union is joining Catholic groups in challenging congressional concern over judicial nominees who are religious.

Nathan Diament, director of public policy at the O.U.'s Institute for Public Affairs, said Tuesday that several recent nominees with deeply held religious beliefs are being put to an unconstitutional religious test when senators and others in confirmation hearings ask whether their religious views will affect their ability to implement the law.

### U.S. teens study in Israel

Five American Jewish teenagers are inaugurating a study program in Israel.

The five are flying to Israel on Tuesday to take part in the first year of the Elite Academy program, sponsored by the Jewish Agency for Israel and Israel's Education Ministry, for graduates of the ninth or 10th grades. The students can study at one of the top Israeli high schools and will be housed in student dormitories.

### OSCE hosts anti-racism parley

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe is hosting an anti-racism conference this week. Some 300 delegates from 55 countries and nongovernmental organizations are to take part in the meeting against racism, xenophobia and discrimination on Thursday and Friday.

The conference will address the role of governments and civil society in promoting greater tolerance in Europe, Central Asia and North America. In June, the OSCE held a similar conference that for the first time dealt with anti-Semitism as a stand-alone issue.

### Nazi program to be expanded

The Simon Wiesenthal Center is planning to expand its program offering rewards for information on suspected Nazi collaborators.

The Operation Last Chance program, which was started in the Baltics, will be expanded to Poland, Romania and Austria in September, the center said.

This week, the center announced that information gathered during the first year of the program in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia has helped the center submit the names of 55 suspects to prosecutors.

## Pollard gets another day in court, but comes away with no decision

By Edwin Black

WASHINGTON (JTA) — It didn't result in any decision, but just getting another day in court was a victory of sorts for Jonathan Pollard.

Sentenced to life imprisonment in 1987 for spying for Israel, Pollard for years had tried to get a new hearing, arguing that his former counsel was inept and that the government broke a plea bargain agreement when it convinced the judge at his trial to give him a life sentence.

On Tuesday, Pollard appeared in U.S. District Court in Washington, the first time he has been seen in public since his sentencing 16 years ago. For much of that time, he was held in solitary confinement.

A packed courtroom heard Pollard's defense attorneys demand what they said was justice for the former Navy analyst, who confessed to passing military secrets to Israel.

Over and over again, attorney Jacques Semmelman argued that Pollard's original attorney, Richard Hibey, had been guilty of ineffective assistance of counsel, thereby denying Pollard his right to a fair trial.

Pollard already has served longer than any other spy similarly convicted.

Semmelman repeatedly reminded Judge Thomas Hogan that Hibey, without explanation, never objected to the government's breach of its written plea agreement not to ask for a life sentence; failed to ask for an evidentiary hearing regarding a last-minute, secret declaration by then-Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger outlining Pollard's allegedly extensive damage to U.S. interests; and failed to file the routine notice of appeal required within 10 days of the court proceedings.

Hibey has declined to discuss the case. Weinberger has admitted that his sworn declaration, in many ways the basis for Pollard's life sentence, "was made far bigger than its actual importance."

Hogan did not rule on the request for a reduction of Pollard's sentence or on his attorneys' request to be able to see the secret documents.

Wearing green leisure clothes and a beige knit yarmulke, Pollard was brought to the courtroom Tuesday without shackles and took a seat between Semmelman and his lead attorney, Eliot Lauer. His lawyers were backed up by two hired public relations managers, a contingent of rabbis led by former Israeli Chief Rabbi Mordechai Eliyahu, Pollard's wife Esther and Rep. Anthony Weiner (D-N.Y.).

Lauer appealed to the judge to allow Pollard's attorneys access to the secret documents behind the Weinberger declaration, which the government maintains are too secret for defense counsel to examine.

Hogan asked prosecutors several times whether the information from more than a decade and a half ago is "stale" or "no longer has its status" as top secret.

In a conversation with JTA, Weiner said he was the only member of Congress actually to examine the secret documents that have been denied to Pollard's current attorneys. He examined them in 1999 in the presence of security officers in the office of the House of Representatives' Intelligence Committee, Weiner said.

Weiner declined to characterize the documents or divulge their contents. But based on what he read, he said, he disagrees with both the public and secret portions of the Weinberger declaration.

"No case in American history has been treated so harshly," Weiner said. Pollard "should have never been sentenced to life."

That view was seconded by Jewish leaders.

"It's time for the president to release Pollard on humanitarian grounds," said Seymour Reich, a former chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Abraham Cooper, the associate dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, hailed the hearing as "a major achievement" for Pollard's attorneys.

Eliyahu came from Israel for the hearing and led a prayer session in the pouring rain outside the courthouse after the hearing. Asked if he thought Pollard would be released, Eliyahu looked at the sky and said, "Anything can happen." □

## NEWS ANALYSIS

## Do Israel's targeted killings wound more than just Hamas?

By Ron Kampeas

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Killing Hamas leaders wounds the terrorist group, Israeli and Palestinian officials agree.

At question is whether moderate Palestinians — and U.S. influence in the region — are also casualties of Israel's targeted strikes.

Israel has killed at least 11 leaders of Hamas since the group claimed responsibility for a deadly Jerusalem bus bombing on Aug. 19, which killed 21 people, including at least five children.

Israel declared "all-out war" against the group after the bus bombing.

The new frequency of the killings — and the targeting of political as well as military leaders — have led some to wonder whether the Bush administration's "road map" peace plan, which envisions an end to terrorism and a Palestinian state within three years, is still viable.

"It has a serious effect on the Hamas leadership, on the one hand," Edward Abington, a former U.S. diplomat who now lobbies for the Palestinians in Washington, said of the killings.

On the other hand, he said, "it undermines U.S. credibility on the road map."

Abington said the killings would shift moderate Arab regimes — key to the Bush administration's plans not only for Israelis and Palestinians, but for Iraq — away from support for the United States.

"Israel is assassinating left and right, and the appearance is that the United States is acquiescing," Abington said.

The lack of moderate Arab support in 2000 helped scuttle the Camp David talks when Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat refused to take painful steps — such as conceding parts of Jerusalem — knowing he would be on his own.

Israelis say that defeating Hamas ultimately could remove the extremist yoke that has held back the Palestinian leadership until now.

"Hamas has no interest in any political solution," said Dore Gold, a senior adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. "Israel would have preferred the Palestinian Authority to handle Hamas, but they have consistently refused to meet their road map responsibilities and dismantle the terrorist infrastructure."

In any case, the Hamas attacks — and Israeli retaliation — may mean that the United States fundamentally has to reassess its policies in the region.

"American policy is now in a shambles, the road map no longer seems viable, the cease-fire is in tatters," said Nathan Brown, a Middle East expert at George Washington University.

If the United States has problems with the intensity of Israel's reaction, its public expressions have been muted at best.

"Israel has a right to defend herself, but Israel needs to take into account the effect that actions they take have on the peace process," White House spokesman Scott McClellan said after Israel killed Hamas leader Ismail Abu Shanab in an attack on Aug. 21.

Abu Shanab was a political leader who helped broker the recent cease-fire, signed onto by the main Palestinian terrorist groups, which led to a brief period of calm.

His killing came just two months after Israel attempted to kill

Hamas spokesman and senior member Abdel Aziz Rantissi.

Any American attempt to distinguish between political and military leaders runs the risk of hypocrisy, said Matthew Levitt, an analyst with the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

"We don't make a distinction between Osama bin Laden and his foot soldiers, even though bin Laden is not the trigger puller," Levitt said. "Those who commit acts of terrorism and those who order them carried out are just as culpable."

Gold said that political leaders and spokesmen serve the same tactical ends as bomb makers.

"Israel does not accept the argument that there is a difference between the political and military wings of Hamas," he said. "The U.S. used to be very concerned when Al-Qaida spokesmen would appear on Al-Jazeera because they could have had operational messages mixed into their language. The same is true for Hamas spokesmen like Rantissi."

Targeting political leaders is not new. Israel made no distinctions between political and military officials in its famous action against Black September after the killing of 11 Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics.

Still, Israel's recent intensity against Hamas is unprecedented in the way it has confronted the three-year-old intifada.

Levitt, a former FBI analyst, said there is a tactical advantage to maintaining the intensity of the attacks.

"Having a situation in which all of Hamas has to go underground, moving it from desktops to laptops, is a significant blow to its ability to carry out operations," he said.

Abington agreed that is true in the short term but worried that ultimately the targeted killings would reinforce the militant group.

"It undermines Abu Mazen," Abington said, using the popular name for Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas.

"One reason he has been reluctant to take moves against Hamas is because he thinks the Palestinian street does not support him. Assassinations only inflame support for Hamas."

It was a point echoed by Brown, the Middle East expert.

"From the Israeli perspective, it's clear that suicide bombing depends first on capability, and also on a social environment that makes it possible," Brown said. "Assassination targets the first, but makes the second worse."

Still, Brown said, "It strikes me that the killings are motivated by the lack of other options." □

## Israel: We missed target

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The target of an Israeli missile strike Monday in the Gaza Strip escaped unharmed.

The man wasn't in the vehicle that was hit, Israeli officials acknowledged. At least one member of Hamas died in the attack, which also wounded 20. □

## Hamas creates most-wanted list

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Hamas has created a deck of cards of Israeli officials it wants to assassinate. The deck imitates a U.S. tactic for targeting Saddam Hussein and his loyalists in Iraq.

Included in the Hamas cards are Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, former Prime Ministers Ehud Barak and Shimon Peres, and top security officials. The Al-Aksa Brigade also has published a list of Israelis it wants to kill. □