



# Daily News Bulletin

Vol. 81, No. 191

Thursday, October 16, 2003

86th Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Gaza terrorists kill Americans

Three Americans were killed when their convoy was bombed in the Gaza Strip. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the roadside attack Wednesday morning on the three-car convoy carrying staff from the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv.

The three killed were security guards escorting American personnel, some of whom were on their way to interview Palestinians applying to enter the United States as Fulbright scholars.

After the attack, the United States called on Americans to leave the Gaza Strip. No one has claimed responsibility for the bombing, which was condemned by both Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Ahmed Karia.

### U.S. backs Israel at U.N.

The United States vetoed a U.N. Security Council resolution that would have condemned Israel's West Bank security fence. The U.S. vetoed the resolution late Tuesday because it was unbalanced, said John Negroponte, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

An alternative resolution proposed by the United States, which would have called on all countries in the Middle East to work against terrorist groups, was not brought to a vote.

### Maxim's death toll at 21

A Christian Arab died of wounds suffered in a recent suicide bombing in Haifa, bringing the attack's death toll to 21.

George Matar, whose nephew is one of the owners of the Maxim restaurant that was bombed Oct. 4, was 59 and is survived by three sons and two daughters. Eight bombing victims remain hospitalized.

### Vandals destroy Toronto sukkah

Vandals destroyed the sukkah on the campus of Toronto's York University in two separate attacks this week. Police are treating the matter as a hate crime.

"The sukkah is a purely religious symbol that signifies both our gratitude for the bounty of the harvest and the protection and love that our creator has for us," said Zac Kaye, executive director of Hillel of Greater Toronto. "This senseless act of desecration must act as a wake-up call for all members of the university community."

## Anti-Israel activists at Durban were funded by Ford Foundation

By Edwin Black

WASHINGTON (JTA) — In August 2001, thousands of human rights activists from around the globe gathered in Durban, South Africa, for a United Nations conference that participants hoped would address racial injustice plaguing humanity, from Rwanda to Sri Lanka to the United States.

But after more than a year of preparatory conferences held in Iran, Switzerland, Chile, France and Senegal, it became clear to Israeli officials and Jewish organizational leaders that Palestinian non-governmental organizations, or NGOs, and their allies, had manipulated the agenda of the U.N. World Conference Against Racism into a focused indictment of Israel as an illegitimate apartheid, colonial and genocidal regime.

Moreover, the proposed language of conference resolutions would deny or dilute the Holocaust and espouse an openly anti-Semitic stance.

Many Western leaders, including U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, declined to attend what Rep. Tom Lantos (D-Calif.), from the U.S. delegation to the conference, called a "transparent attempt to de-legitimize the moral argument for Israel's existence."

As expected, anti-Israel agitation, anti-Zionist propaganda and blatant anti-Semitism permeated the eight-day Durban affair. Posters displaying Nazi icons and Jewish caricatures, anti-Israel protest marches, organized jeering, inciting leaflets and anti-Jewish cartoons were everywhere, as was orchestrated anti-American agitation.

A virulent resolution drafted by non-governmental organizations at the Durban conference declared Israel a "racist apartheid state" guilty of "genocide and ethnic cleansing." The spectacle was so noxious that Powell withdrew the American delegation.

Who financed a number of the groups at Durban that printed and distributed these materials, purchased advertising and conducted workshops?

"No one knew where the money was coming from to fund all these NGOs," remembers Judith Palkovitz of Pittsburgh, Hadassah general secretary and a delegate to Durban. "I assumed it was a foreign group — say Saudi Arabia."

When asked, one Jewish communal leader after another, and several State Department officials, also guessed: Saudi Arabia.

They were wrong.

The Ford Foundation, one of America's largest philanthropic institutions — and arguably the most prestigious — was a multimillion-dollar funder of many human rights NGOs attending Durban.

That is the conclusion of a two-month JTA investigation, involving interviews with dozens of individuals in seven countries, as well as a review of more than 9,000 pages of government and organizational documents.

The Ford Foundation — which originally was endowed with funds donated by Henry and Edsel Ford but no longer maintains any ties to the Ford Motor Company — has long been known as a funder of Palestinian causes.

But most observers did not suspect the extent of the foundation's involvement in

*This is the first of a four-part series on the Ford Foundation's funding of Palestinian groups that engage in anti-Israel activity. The report is the result of a two-month investigation involving dozens of interviews in seven countries and a review of more than 9,000 pages of documents.*

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Syrians protest U.S. bill

Syrians burned American and Israeli flags at a Damascus restaurant where Western and Arab diplomats were attending a concert.

Some 50 young Syrian demonstrators burned the flags Wednesday to protest the proposed Syria Accountability Act, which imposes sanctions against Syria for its sponsorship of terrorism.

### New peace plan? No thanks

Most Israelis are opposed to an unofficial peace plan drafted by left-wing Israelis and Palestinian figures, a survey says.

The poll of 500 Israelis, published Wednesday in the Israeli daily *Yediot Achronot*, found that 59 percent did not support the proposal, and 69 percent said such discussions should not be held without government approval.

Thirty percent of Israelis backed the plan, which calls for the division of Jerusalem.

### Libya and the bomb

Libya is trying to acquire nuclear capability from North Korea and Pakistan, Israeli officials said.

"We would not be surprised if Tripoli becomes the first Arab regime to have the bomb," a source close to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said Tuesday, adding that Libya is believed to be seeking the know-how to build its own reactor, rather than a ready-made nuclear device.

### Israeli piano student gets visa

An Israeli piano student who fell victim to tightened U.S. visa rules will receive a visa to attend a New York music school.

After a publicity blitz by supporters of the student and efforts by Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.), the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv granted Victor Goldberg, 25, a student visa to attend the Manhattan School of Music.

funding of groups that engage in anti-Zionist, anti-Semitic and pro-Palestinian activities both inside and outside the Middle East.

With hundreds of millions of dollars being pumped into Mideast NGOs by numerous private foundations here and in Europe, government and communal officials are raising significant questions about transparency, how the money in Palestinian areas is being used and whether funders such as the Ford Foundation are exercising proper controls.

Increasingly, federal agencies concerned with fighting terrorism are asking: When money goes in one NGO's pocket, where does it go and whom does it benefit?

The Jewish representatives at Durban "didn't understand the efforts, the financing and the organization that went into hijacking the conference," recalls Reva Price, the Jewish Council for Public Affairs' Washington representative and a Durban delegate.

"We knew we were walking into problems because of what happened in the early meeting in Teheran," Price said. "But we didn't understand how organized the opposition and what a well-financed campaign it was."

Many Jewish officials who participated in the long process complained that a key group responsible for hijacking the conference was the Palestinian Committee for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment, known by its acronym, LAW.

LAW officials took leadership positions on the Durban conference steering committees, conducted workshops and sponsored a pre-conference mission to the West Bank and Gaza to convince South African delegates that Israel was an apartheid state.

"LAW was instrumental in creating the anti-Zionist and anti-Semitic focus at Durban," confirmed Andrew Srulevitch, executive director of U.N. Watch, a Geneva-based group that monitors the world organization.

But it was not just LAW. The Palestinian NGO Network, or PNGO — an umbrella for some 90 Palestinian NGOs — and many of its constituent groups diligently became embedded in the conference bureaucracy and created a hostile environment at Durban.

PNGO led the move to craft an NGO resolution that would "call upon the international community to impose a policy of complete and total isolation of Israel as an apartheid state," including "the imposition of mandatory and comprehensive sanctions and embargoes, [and] the full cessation of all links (diplomatic, economic, social, aid, military cooperation and training) between all states and Israel."

Durban was not a one-time investment for the Ford Foundation — a major funder of LAW and PNGO. Through its Cairo office, Ford extended more than \$35 million in grants to 272 Arab and Palestinian groups during the 2000-2001 period alone — the most recent years for which data is available — plus 62 grants to individuals that total more than \$1.4 million, according to Ford's Web site, as accessed in mid-October 2003.

Since the 1950s, the foundation's Beirut and Cairo offices awarded more than \$193 million to about 350 Middle East groups, almost entirely Arab, Islamic or Palestinian.

Ford's Web site, [www.fordfound.org](http://www.fordfound.org), offers detailed information about its Middle East grants. On the site as of mid-October, "Palestine" is frequently mentioned on its Mideast pages, but Israel's name is absent. Moreover, the Web site's shaded map of the geographical region from Egypt to Lebanon and Jordan blanks out over Israel's territory, even though Ford does make grants to both Jewish and Arab organizations in Jerusalem.

Initially, despite more than two dozen requests by phone and in writing over a period of several weeks, the Ford Foundation's communications vice president Alex Wilde, deputy media director Thea Lurie and media associate Joe Voeller refused to answer any questions or clarify any issues regarding the foundation's funding of groups engaged in anti-Israeli agitation and anti-Semitic or anti-Zionist activity.

However, after this investigation was completed, Wilde sent a statement saying, "We have seen no indication that our grantees in Durban or elsewhere engaged in anti-Semitic speech or activities. The Foundation does not support hate speech of any kind."

Wilde added: "Some of our human rights and development grantees have certainly been critical of policies and practices of the Israeli government insofar as these discriminate against Palestinians or otherwise violate their rights, according to internationally agreed human rights standards and international law."

"We do not believe that this can be described as 'agitation,'" the statement said.

LAW and PNGO confirmed that their Ford funds were pivotal. "Ford has made it possible for us to do much of our work," a senior LAW official in Jerusalem said.

Since 1997, LAW has been the recipient of three grants from the Ford Foundation, totaling \$1.1 million, for "advocacy" and international conferences. A Ford official's



## 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](http://www.jta.org).

## JEWISH WORLD

### Jews top NRA list

Jewish groups are disproportionately listed as anti-gun on the National Rifle Association's Web site.

More Jewish groups are considered anti-gun than any other type of nonprofit group, according to StoptheNRA.com, a new group that seeks to counteract the influence of the gun lobby.

Jewish groups listed on the NRA's site include the American Jewish Committee, American Jewish Congress, Anti-Defamation League, B'nai B'rith, Central Conference of American Rabbis, Hadassah, Jewish Labor Committee, National Council of Jewish Women, Ronald S. Lauder Foundation and the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. Singled out are Reform rabbis David Saperstein and Eric Yoffie and several Jewish celebrities, including Jerry Seinfeld, Lauren Bacall and Mel Brooks. More information about the blacklist is available at [www.nrablacklist.com](http://www.nrablacklist.com).

### French pizzeria destroyed

A kosher pizzeria near Paris was destroyed in an arson attack. According to police, the fire at the Monte Carlo pizzeria in Montreuil, east of the capital, was set aflame in more than one part of the restaurant on Sunday. Both the owner of the pizzeria and Jewish community leaders said the attack, which occurred when the pizzeria was closed for the Sukkot holiday, was not necessarily motivated by anti-Semitism.

### Six-Day War book wins prize

A book about the 1967 Six-Day War was named the 2002-03 Jewish book of the year by the National Jewish Book Awards.

"Six Days of War: June 1967 and the Making of the Modern Middle East," by Michael Oren, won the Everett Family Jewish Book of the Year Award in the 53rd annual competition.

"The Russian Debutante's Handbook," by Gary Shteyngart, triumphed in the fiction category. A complete list of winners is available at [www.jbooks.com](http://www.jbooks.com).

### Lawmaker apologizes for remarks

A U.S. lawmaker says he does not "support, condone or allow" anti-Semitic remarks made by a supporter at a fund-raiser.

Rep. Max Burns (R-Ga.) told JTA that he was not on stage when a supporter called Tony Center, a possible opponent of Burns in 2004, as "that Jew boy down in Savannah." But Burns said he privately admonished the supporter, Jackie Sommers, after the event. Burns met Tuesday with Savannah Jewish leaders and spoke with Center.

"We feel he's very sincere, and we are very satisfied," said Sharon Paz, executive director of the Savannah Jewish Federation.

check of the charity's confidential computer databases confirmed the information.

Reached in Ramallah on her cell phone, PNGO program coordinator Renad Qubaj recalled her coordination of activities in Durban. "In Durban, for sure we published posters saying, 'End the occupation,' things like that," Qubaj said, "and we published a study, had a press conference, organized our partners and protest marches."

Asked about finances, she said, "Unfortunately we are very dependent on the international funds. Not just PNGO but all the Palestinian NGOs — 90 of them in our group. We get very little money from the Arabs — just needy family cases. Ford is our biggest funder."

Allam Jarrar, who helped organize the events at Durban and is a member of the PNGO steering committee network, said Ford money gives PNGO a global scope.

"We do lots of international advocacy conferences and regional forums, and we always try to represent our political view to Europe," Jarrar said. "Our biggest donations come, of course, from Ford," Jarrar added. "We have been in partnership with Ford for a long time — a real partnership, a real understanding of our needs."

"When we go to an international conference, we try to get extra funds from one of their special budgets," Jarrar said. "Or sometimes the conferences' organizers, if they have their own Ford Foundation funding, they send us the finances to attend."

From 1999 to 2002, PNGO received a series of Ford grants totaling \$1.4 million, plus a \$270,000 supplement, according to Ford's IRS filings, Internet databases and annual reports. PNGO still receives at least \$350,000 annually from Ford, data showed.

LAW and PNGO were hardly the only Ford-backed groups at Durban. The conference was a major enterprise for the Ford Foundation.

In a Ford Web site commentary written prior to Durban, Bradford Smith, Ford's vice president for peace and social justice, wrote that the conference's issues were "at the core of the Ford Foundation's mission since its inception."

More than a dozen activist organizations — from Brazil to Sri Lanka — received well over \$1 million in Ford grants specifically earmarked for the production of advertising materials, public meetings and advocacy at the Durban conference.

"Does all this mobilizing, networking and drafting of statements have real impact on people's lives?" Smith asked in the statement. His answer: Yes, "because for years to come they [Ford grantees] and the foundation will work together to implement the [Durban] Conference Plan of Action."

Since Durban, LAW has continued its crusade against Israel. PNGO and many of its 90 members also continue efforts to try Israeli officials as war criminals, boycott Israel and label Israel a racist state that must be stripped of its Jewish identity.

While a number of the Ford-financed organizations at Durban, such as LAW and PNGO, engaged in anti-Israel and anti-Zionist agitation, certainly many did not.

Either way, Ford Foundation money, as intended, was a prime mover in the production of the advocacy pamphlets, posters, workshops and other materials at the conference that shaped the overall atmosphere.

"I saw the Ford representative at Durban," remembers Palkovitz, the Hadassah delegate, who spotted him in connection with African American reparations issues. "There was no way to miss the anti-Semitism. The Ford guy would have to be blind. It was the most anti-Semitic and anti-Zionist stuff you ever saw."

"I told the Ford representative I thought it was a mistake because the whole meeting was being hijacked," she related. "He disagreed. He said he believed what the conference was doing was correct."

"We are struck," said David Harris, executive director of the American Jewish Committee, "by the scores of Palestinian NGOs funded by Ford, a number of which have deeply disturbing and troubling records on Israel and Jews." □

*Edwin Black is the author of the newly released "War Against the Weak: Eugenics and America's Campaign to Create a Master Race." In May 2003, he won the American Society of Journalists and Authors' award for best book of the year for "IBM and the Holocaust."*

The entire JTA series on Ford Foundation funding is also at [www.jta.org/ford.asp](http://www.jta.org/ford.asp).

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## Roadside blast in Gaza is first to target Americans in intifada

By Dan Baron

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Any doubts about the close link between the war on terrorism and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict have gone the way of a U.S. jeep full of diplomats on a dusty Gaza highway.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for Wednesday's roadside bombing, which killed three American security agents and wounded an official of the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv. But it had all the hallmarks of Palestinian terrorist attacks against Israeli vehicles, and it set a new precedent for Palestinian violence.

President Bush blamed the Palestinian Authority for not cracking down on terror groups despite numerous pledges to do so.

"Palestinian authorities should have acted long ago to fight terror in all its forms," Bush said in a written statement Wednesday. Their failure to do so, he said, "continues to cost lives."

An unwillingness to reform P.A. security forces and dismantle terrorist groups "constitutes the greatest obstacle to achieving the Palestinian people's dream of statehood," Bush said, blaming P.A. President Yasser Arafat for hindering reforms.

The dead Americans were identified as John Branchizio, 37, of Texas; Mark Parson, 31, of New York; and John Martin Linde, 30, of Missouri. The three were on contract to the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv through the defense contracting company Dyncorp, State Department Spokesman Richard Boucher said.

U.S. officials expressed outrage at the bombing.

In a phone call with P.A. Prime Minister Ahmed Karia, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said the Palestinians could not move toward statehood "without eliminating violence and terrorism."

FBI investigators are being dispatched to the region, U.S. Ambassador Daniel Kurtzer told reporters in Tel Aviv.

The Israeli army sent tanks and armored vehicles, under cover of a helicopter gunship, to help the Americans evacuate the wounded man and the bodies of the victims.

Embassy officials who arrived on the scene to document the wreckage had barely managed to pull out their cameras when they were attacked by stone-throwing youths from the nearby Jabalya refugee camp. The Americans beat a hasty retreat as Palestinian police fired in the air to disperse the crowd.

Kurtzer's cultural attache was in the convoy, which was on its way to meet with Palestinian candidates for Fulbright scholarships to U.S. universities.

"It remains to be seen" if the program will be suspended in Palestinian areas, Kurtzer said.

According to Palestinian sources, Fulbright alumni in Gaza had been instructed not talk to the press as a probe began. That was an indication that authorities were covering all angles of an ambush that clearly targeted U.S. diplomats, a first for this round of Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Arafat called the bombing an "ugly crime" and pledged to find the culprits. So did Karia. Palestinian terrorist groups sought to distance themselves from the attack, too.

"We view it as inappropriate to target Europeans, Americans or any nationality other than the occupation forces" of Israel, an Islamic Jihad leader, Nafez Azzam, told Reuters.

Analysts did not expect the attack to affect U.S. commitment

to the "road map" peace plan. But, they said, if the Palestinians fail to find the culprits, it could erode any remaining U.S. confidence in P.A. anti-terror efforts.

While Washington weighed its options, Israeli officials made clear that they do not consider this a random act of bloodshed but, if anything, a blood bond between two old allies.

"It's not just because of U.S. support for Israel," Sharon adviser Ra'anan Gissin said of the attackers' motive. "It is because of what Israel and the United States both together stand for."

"They stand for life, for liberty, for democracy here, for pursuing peace," he said. "These victims are victims because of the gallant and very courageous policies that President Bush has been carrying to try and promote peace and hope to the people of the Middle East." □

## Holocaust museum and center to be built soon in Ukrainian city

By Daniel MacIsaac

KIEV, Ukraine (JTA) — Ukrainian Jewish leaders have unveiled plans for a new major Holocaust museum and Jewish education center in the former Soviet Union.

On Monday, representatives of the Dnepropetrovsk-based Tkuma Holocaust Research, Education and Memorial Center were in Kiev along with the project's sponsors — the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany and the Dnepropetrovsk Jewish community — to provide details about the \$3 million center, which will be known as the Ukrainian Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Construction is scheduled to begin Oct. 29 in Dnepropetrovsk. The Ukrainian government also is providing some funding for the project, though the amount is unclear.

The multistory complex, which incorporates a historic restored synagogue on the site, will serve as a memorial, community center and conference center, and will host lectures and seminars.

"The Holocaust and the history of the Jewish communities of Ukraine are the main themes of the future museum," Tkuma official Mark Shlyak said.

"The tragedy the Jewish people survived is one of the most significant events of 20th-century European history," he noted, but "there's no museum in Ukraine that tells the history of Jewish life in Ukraine and about the Holocaust."

Nearly a million Ukrainian Jews died during World War II.

The director of Tkuma, Igor Shchupak, said the complex will place the Holocaust within the wider context of Jewish life in Ukraine while simultaneously promoting religious tolerance.

Part of the exhibition will be devoted to Jewish life in Ukraine from the middle of the 18th century to the present, while also covering events like the Great Famine of 1932-1933.

Displays also will show Jewish life in other parts of the Soviet Union from 1945 to 1991. A wide range of sources, including Jewish community members, are contributing photographs, documents and other artifacts.

"It will be a complex not only for Jews but for all Ukrainians," Shchupak said. "The nature of totalitarianism is the foundation of genocide."

Shchupak said Tkuma hopes the Dnepropetrovsk museum complex will be completed within two years. □