



# Daily News Bulletin

Vol. 81, No. 192

Friday, October 17, 2003

86th Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Arrests in convoy attack

Palestinian police arrested several members of a terrorist group for the bombing of a U.S. diplomatic convoy.

The suspects belong to the Popular Resistance Committees, a coalition of former Palestinian Authority security men and breakaway terrorists that has destroyed three Israeli tanks in ambushes similar to Wednesday's attack, which killed three American guards and wounded a U.S. diplomat.

The coalition denied involvement in the attack, and Israel dismissed the arrests as a show. Meanwhile, FBI agents arrived in Israel to investigate the attack.

### House passes Syria sanctions

The U.S. House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly to impose sanctions on Syria unless it cracks down on terrorist groups.

The Syria Accountability Act, which passed 398-4 Wednesday, requires the president to impose two sanctions from a list of six unless Syria ends its support for terrorism, stops developing weapons of mass destruction, pulls its troops from Lebanon and tightens its borders with Iraq. Possible sanctions include a ban on trade and diplomatic restrictions.

The bill is likely to pass in the Senate, and congressional staffers expect President Bush to sign it into law next month.

### Bush signs PLO waiver

President Bush signed a six-month waiver allowing the PLO to keep its U.S. offices open and use its funds in U.S. banks.

"I hereby determine and certify that it is important to the national security interests of the United States to waive" the provisions of the 1987 Anti-Terrorism Act, said the memorandum sent Wednesday to Secretary of State Colin Powell.

Some lawmakers urged Bush not to waive the restrictions, saying the PLO is a terrorist group, not a reliable peace partner.

Bush warned the PLO in 2002 that he would not renew the waiver automatically.

REMINDER: The JTA DAILY NEWS BULLETIN will not be published Monday, Oct. 20.

## How aware is Ford Foundation of way its funds are being used?

By Edwin Black

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The Ford Foundation disburses approximately \$500 million annually through 13 offices worldwide, to grantees of all descriptions, in dozens of countries.

Each year, the foundation, with an estimated \$10 billion in assets, makes some 2,500 awards spanning the realms of art, education, development and social justice.

In the process, Ford practices globalization just as a multinational commercial corporation would, deftly weaving monies in and out of its offices and recipients, in a complex web of funding.

### Funding Haze Part 2 of a Series

But the Ford Foundation's product is not commercial — it is philanthropic. A large portion of that annual philanthropic expenditure is devoted to what it terms "human rights and social justice" — that is, not to traditional relief and aid programs, but to advocacy, activism and agitation.

Ford carefully monitors all programs and materials enabled by its funds, maintains Alex Wilde, the foundation's vice president for communications.

Various grantees also confirmed that Ford requires detailed submissions of printed items and Web site development plans, sometimes two or three times per year. Hence foundation officials remain keenly aware of the fruits of their philanthropy.

There is no easy way to identify how much money the scores of anti-Israel and Palestinian advocacy groups and non-governmental organizations, or NGOs, actually receive from Ford. This is because significant funds or program benefits are also channeled through other not-for-profit organizations and even overseas government agencies.

For example, the 2002 annual report of the Washington-based Advocacy Institute lists the Palestinian NGO Network, or PNGO, as a "partner."

In February 2003, the Advocacy Institute brought a group of PNGO fellows to Washington in a Ford-funded program "to strengthen PNGO's advocacy capacity." The program involved "message development, coalition building, media," as well as "access and persuasion of decision makers," according to a statement that appeared in mid-August on the institute's main Web page.

Ford records indicate that the foundation in 2000 granted the Advocacy Institute \$180,000 "to strengthen the role of a network of Palestinian NGOs." The money for PNGO is tallied among the foundation's U.S. grants, not those of the Cairo office.

Just a year later, in August 2001, PNGO was one of the main groups pushing for anti-Israel resolutions at the U.N. World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa.

To be sure, Ford has also granted several million dollars to American Jewish and Israeli peace groups. For example, Ford has granted \$500,000 to the American Reform Judaism movement's Mideast peace program, known as "Seeking Peace, Pursuing Justice," which seeks to mobilize North American Jewry for social justice in Israel.

Ford also funds several Israeli-based dissident and human rights groups that

*This is the second 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

### Palestinian killed near checkpoint

Israeli soldiers killed a Palestinian at a checkpoint in the West Bank. The man, a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, was killed Wednesday after he refused to stop at a checkpoint near Tulkarm.

Also near Tulkarm on Wednesday, a Palestinian woman who tried to attack soldiers at a different checkpoint was arrested.

### Assad: Israel in war against Islam

Israel is trying to fuel a war against Islam, Syrian President Bashar Assad charged.

Israelis "should know that no matter how big their military might grows, they will not succeed in achieving their goals or in planting fears in us," Assad said in a speech at the summit of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in Malaysia, Reuters reported.

Israeli-Syrian tensions have increased recently after Israel attacked a suspected terrorist training camp near Damascus.

The strike came after Islamic Jihad, a terrorist group based on Syria, claimed responsibility for an Oct. 4 suicide bombing in Haifa that killed 21 people.

### P.A. blames Israel for attack

The Palestinian Authority's official newspaper is blaming Israel for Wednesday's attack on a U.S. convoy in Gaza.

A columnist for Al-Hayat Al-Jadida, Ali Sadek, wrote that he doesn't rule out the possibility that Israel detonated the bomb by remote control "because their actions in the past, especially against the Americans, are known," according to the Jerusalem Post.

Also in the paper, Palestinian analyst Fuad Abu Hijleh said Wednesday's attack on the convoy, which killed three, was the work of the Mossad. On Thursday, Palestinian police arrested several members of a terrorist group for the bombing.

campaign for Palestinian justice. The list includes such Israeli Palestinian rights advocates as B'Tselem, Rabbis for Human Rights and Hamoked.

B'Tselem currently receives \$250,000 for what Ford databases and reports describe as "monitoring human rights in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, documenting violations, and advocating for policy changes."

Rabbis for Human Rights has received more than \$250,000 for what Ford databases and reports describe as "rabbinically-based educational and organizing activities promoting human rights policies by Israel in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip."

Rabbi Arik Ascherman, the group's executive director, said the Ford money has been used to develop a Web site, place newspaper advertising and bring other rabbis to Israel to learn about human rights.

Last year, Hamoked was granted \$300,000 for what Ford describes, in one summary, as "advocacy and legal action to promote human rights of Palestinians in the Occupied Territories facing human rights violations by Israeli authorities."

B'Tselem and Rabbis for Human Rights, while staunchly advocating for Palestinian human rights, have also vocally and publicly condemned the campaign of Palestinian suicide bombings and other terrorism aimed at Israeli civilians.

Ascherman spoke favorably of Ford, commenting, "Our experience with Ford has been very positive."

He also said that, while "it would be wrong for a funder organization to have a heavy-handed thumb editing," in general, grant makers should "ensure the funds are spent for the goals they support, and I would like to think the goals of the Ford Foundation do not include anti-Semitism."

"We at Rabbis for Human Rights obviously abhor anti-Zionist organizations and anti-Semitism," said Rabbi Brian Walt of the group's North American branch.

The Ford Foundation also funds the Washington-based New Israel Fund for its activities supporting and promoting social change in Israel. Since 1988, the Ford Foundation has provided more than \$5 million to the New Israel Fund, a coalition of Israelis, North Americans and Europeans seeking to promote human rights and justice issues in Israel.

Ford has just announced it would increase its funding to "peace and social justice groups" in Israel through the New Israel Fund with a \$20 million five-year grant to be administered by a joint Ford-NIF enterprise.

Aaron Back, Ford's former program officer for Israel, will oversee the new funding. The money is designed to "increase our funding in Israel and help build the capacity of civic organizations vital to strengthening its democracy," said Ford's president, Susan Berresford.

The move will shift future grant-making from Ford's office in New York to the New Israel Fund. It is not yet clear which groups will get money from the donor-advised fund.

The overwhelming majority of Ford's monies for the Middle East are granted to pro-Palestinian and Islamic rights groups.

The list extends for pages. For example, last year, the Al Mezan Center for Human Rights in Gaza received \$100,000 for what Ford databases and reports describe as "community-based advocacy work on economic, social and cultural rights in Gaza."

The Al Mezan Center works closely with the International Solidarity Movement, which stages civil disobedience actions to obstruct Israeli security forces operating in the territories. The center also operates a Web site, at [www.mezan.org](http://www.mezan.org), that seeks to document alleged Israeli atrocities and violations of international law, and that also denounces Israel's war against the Islamic fundamentalist group Hamas.

A recent typical Al Mezan Center news release began, "The Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) have blatantly escalated their aggression against Palestinian civilians in the OPT during the last week."

Al Mezan is one of the many Palestinian NGOs that refer to the Israeli Defense Forces as Israeli Occupation Forces. OPT is its abbreviation for "occupied Palestinian territories."

Augmenting its Ford funding, Al Mezan also receives funding from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the International Commission of Jurists in Sweden, the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, and several other U.N. and European Community sources.

A second Palestinian agency, operating under the name Health, Development,



## Daily News Bulletin

Norman H. Lipoff, *President*

Mark J. Joffe, *Executive Editor and Publisher*

Lisa Hostein, *Editor*

Michael S. Arnold, *Managing Editor*

Lenore A. Silverstein, *Finance and Administration Director*

Paula Simmonds, *Marketing and Development Director*

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

### Lieberman hints on Pollard

Sen. Joseph Lieberman suggested that, if elected president, he would not support a pardon of convicted spy Jonathan Pollard.

Speaking Wednesday to Jewish senior citizens in Florida, the Connecticut Democrat said that Pollard, the former Navy intelligence officer who spied for Israel, "did get an unfair sentence when compared to others, but that's sometimes how the system works."

Lieberman also said he avoids interfering in criminal cases and noted that he has done nothing in the Senate on Pollard's behalf. Lieberman, who discussed Social Security and Medicare with the seniors, will travel to Dearborn, Mich., on Friday to speak to the Arab American Institute.

### Ross: Groups in on bombing

Hamas and Hezbollah probably helped bomb the U.S. convoy in Gaza, Dennis Ross said. The former U.S. envoy to the Middle East made his comments Wednesday at a Senate subcommittee hearing on the Middle East. On Thursday, Palestinian police arrested members of the Popular Resistance Committees, a coalition of former Palestinian Authority security men and breakaway terrorists, in connection with the bombing.

### Christians to pray for Israel

Christian groups are joining a second annual day of prayer for Israel. The North American Mission of the Southern Baptist Convention, which represents more than 47,000 churches in the United States, is among the groups that have signed on to the Oct. 26 event, which will feature churches learning about and praying for the State of Israel. The International Fellowship of Christians and Jews is organizing the event.

### Hello? President Bush?

Jewish women's groups are organizing a call-in day to President Bush on behalf of Israel. One Voice, which represents 11 Jewish women's group from across the political and religious spectrum, is calling on Jewish women to call the president on Oct. 22 to thank him for his support for Israel. More information is available at [www.onevoice4israel.org](http://www.onevoice4israel.org).

### OSCE to meet on anti-Semitism

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe will hold a second conference devoted to the problem of anti-Semitism.

The decision to meet in Berlin in April 2004 was taken by the group this week in Warsaw. The decision to hold another conference "is a very important statement because of ongoing anti-Semitic incidents that are taking place in Europe," said Mark Levin, executive director of NCSJ: Advocates on Behalf of Jews in Russia, Ukraine, the Baltic States & Eurasia.

Information and Policy Institute, received one \$60,000 Ford grant under "Media Arts and Culture," plus a second award for \$75,000 under "Sexuality and Reproductive Health." The institute operates an incitement Web site, [www.palestinemonitor.org](http://www.palestinemonitor.org), dedicated to mobilizing world action against Israel and Zionism.

A page on the site, as of mid-August, sub-headlined "How can you take action for the Palestinian cause?" offered two Palestinian links, one of which is: "Boycott Israeli Goods." Clicking on the link leads to the site [www.boycottisrael.org](http://www.boycottisrael.org), which includes a list of American companies to be boycotted for doing business in Israel, including Johnson & Johnson, Disney and Starbucks.

In mid-August, Palestine Monitor's own "Activism" page offered enthusiastic coverage of a September 2002 attempt by pro-Palestinian protesters to enter Caterpillar's Washington premises for the purpose of serving a so-called citizens-arrest warrant for "war crimes" related to selling bulldozers to Israel.

A third entity, the Jerusalem Media and Communication Centre, recently received three grants totaling \$365,000 to create what Ford databases and reports describe as "media services for the foreign press and a weekly electronic magazine," as well as "enhancement of media activities related to the crisis situation."

The center publishes "The Palestine Report," which can be found at [www.palestinereport.org](http://www.palestinereport.org). This Web site employs dramatic imagery and testimony to portray Israel as an apartheid state guilty of war crimes, violations of international law and repeated massacres.

As of early October, one of the center's main Web site features was a clickable section entitled "From Revolution to Revolution," which "focuses on internal Palestinian politics, political strengths and cracks in the armor of unity."

A prominent "Resources" list links to the Web sites of six Palestinian factions. Several of them are listed by the State Department as terrorist groups, including the People's Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Islamic Jihad and Hamas.

When the Jerusalem Media and Communications Centre was asked whether other organizations could be listed as well, an official explained, "We only link to the biggest and best organizations."

A State Department spokesman for the Near East Affairs bureau who viewed "The Palestine Report" and its link pages to terrorist sites declared, "I am uncomfortable with the funding of this site and especially these links — very uncomfortable."

Yehudit Barsky, director of the American Jewish Committee's division on Middle East and international terrorism, added, "I think this demonstrates that we in the United States have not paid attention — foundations can be used in a way no one can imagine. Here we see a Web site promoting terrorist organizations. The Ford Foundation just did not care."

During this investigation, Wilde, the Ford Foundation communications vice president, refused to answer any questions regarding PNGO, the Policy Institute, the Jerusalem Media and Communications Centre or any other aspect of the foundation's involvement with Palestinian NGOs. Nor would Thea Lurie, the foundation's deputy media director, or media associate Joe Voeller.

But in a six-page written response to questions that the foundation released only after this investigation was completed, Wilde said: "We are a grant making organization. We support grantees for agreed-upon activities and do not dictate what they should say."

The statement also said: "Our human rights work reflects a commitment to principles that go beyond partisanship and politics, to basic rights and protections that human beings possess by virtue simply of being born."

During a visit to Ford's headquarters in New York, foundation officials brushed off questions about anti-Israel agitation. Quipped one senior Ford official: "Anti-Zionism is in the eye of the beholder." □

*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).

Ford gave \$365,000 to a group whose Web site lists Islamic Jihad and Hamas among its "Resources."

## FOCUS ON ISSUES

## 25 years after pope's election, Catholic-Jewish ties are stronger

By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME (JTA) — Twenty-five years ago this month, white smoke billowed from a chimney above the Vatican to signal the election of a new pope — Karol Wojtyla, the 58-year-old archbishop of Krakow, the first pontiff ever chosen from Poland and the first non-Italian to sit on the papal throne in 456 years.

Wojtyla, who took the name John Paul II to honor his immediate predecessor, was slated to mark the silver anniversary of his election on Thursday.

Now 83 and visibly marked by age and illness, he has left a decisive mark on the world, on Catholicism and, in particular, on the long-troubled relations between Catholics and Jews.

Though a staunch conservative on most Catholic and social issues, John Paul II has made bettering Catholic-Jewish relations a centerpiece of his policy, and has taken revolutionary strides throughout his tenure.

Today, despite some lingering tensions and unresolved issues — including conflicting views of the role of Pope Pius XII during World War II — many Jewish observers say John Paul II will be remembered as the best pope the Jews ever had.

Rabbi David Rosen, the American Jewish Committee's international director for interreligious affairs, describes John Paul's contributions to Catholic-Jewish reconciliation as "unique and historic."

The pope, he said, "has had the courage and vision to take the Catholic-Jewish relationship on to a new level of deeper dialogue, in which the relationship with the Jewish people is seen within the Catholic world as being something that is at the root and heart of Christian identity itself."

John Paul II was elected to the papacy only 13 years after the Vatican's historic *Nostra Aetate* declaration opened the way toward Jewish-Catholic dialogue. That declaration, issued in 1965 by the Second Vatican Council, convened by Pope John XXIII, condemned anti-Semitism and for the first time officially repudiated the age-old assertion that the "perfidious Jews" were collectively responsible for the crucifixion of Jesus.

John Paul's papacy expanded on the *Nostra Aetate*, and in Jewish terms it has been marked by dramatic "firsts" — starting with the pontiff's own personal history. Perhaps most importantly, he was an eyewitness both to the Holocaust and to the oppressive and often anti-Semitic policies of totalitarian communism.

Born in 1920 in the southern Polish town of Wadowice, near Krakow, Wojtyla grew up at a time when Poland was the rich, vital heartland of European Jewry. The country's 3.5 million Jews represented 10 percent of Poland's overall population. Wadowice itself was more than 25 percent Jewish, and the future pope had Jewish friends, neighbors and classmates.

During World War II, Poland became the Nazis' main killing field. Half of the 6 million Jews murdered in the Holocaust were Polish Jews — including the future pope's friends and neighbors. Wojtyla himself worked in a Nazi slave labor camp and studied for the priesthood clandestinely.

After the war, the future pope's discovery of what happened at Auschwitz, located only a few miles from his home, "marked him for life and would eventually make him, perhaps despite

himself, a revolutionary figure in the Catholic Church," James Carroll, author of "Constantine's Sword: The Church and the Jews — A History," wrote in a recent article in the *Boston Globe*.

Given this history, it was highly symbolic that in 1979, on John Paul's first visit to Poland after his election as pope, he knelt in prayer at Auschwitz-Birkenau as a sign of commemoration for the Jews killed there.

At an ecumenical prayer meeting in Assisi, Italy, in 1993, the pope said that "the memory of the Shoah must animate our teaching and preaching for the sake of future generations."

Throughout his reign, John Paul repeatedly condemned anti-Semitism as a sin and, on his trips around the globe sought to meet with Jewish leaders. He also issued unprecedented contrition for past Christian hostility and violence toward Jews.

The most dramatic of his many meetings with Jews took place in April 1986, when he left the Vatican and crossed the Tiber River to visit the Great Synagogue in Rome, becoming the first pope to visit a synagogue since the apostle Peter, considered the first pope.

At the synagogue, the pope spoke of the "irrevocable covenant" between God and the Jews. With Judaism, he said, "we have a relationship that we do not have with any other religion. You are our dearly beloved brothers and in a certain way it may be said that you are our elder brothers."

At the end of 1993, the pope took another unprecedented step, overseeing the formal establishment of full diplomatic relations between Israel and the Vatican.

The pope's visit to Israel in March 2000 was historic. He visited the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial, and at the Western Wall he bowed his head in prayer and slipped a prayer note into the cracks between the stones.

He wrote in the note, "We are deeply saddened by the behavior of those who in the course of history have caused these children of yours to suffer and, asking your forgiveness, we wish to commit ourselves to genuine brotherhood with the People of the Covenant."

But the pope's Middle East visit was not without its low points. When he visited Syria, some criticized the pope for remaining passive when President Bashar Assad engaged in anti-Semitic rhetoric. The pope also angered some Israelis with remarks they considered too pro-Palestinian.

Since the pope's historic visit, however, the emergence of what some observers have termed a "new European anti-Semitism" — linked to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict — has dogged Catholic-Jewish relations in what the pope calls "Christian Europe."

Other issues also have continued to pester Catholic-Jewish ties, including differences over the wartime role of Pope Pius XII, whom the Vatican wants to beatify but whom critics accuse of ignoring pleas to save Jews during the Holocaust.

There also is an ongoing internal debate within the Catholic hierarchy as to whether the church is responsible for anti-Semitism.

As the pope's health visibly declines, observers are questioning whether his teachings on Jews will endure and whether they will trickle down to the world's more than one billion Catholics.

"This is a major challenge for the post-John Paul II church," said Rabbi A. James Rudin, the AJCommittee's senior adviser on interreligious affairs.

"To have his church retreat from the gains John Paul II has achieved in building mutual respect and understanding between Catholics and Jews would represent a huge setback, and an insult to this remarkable pope," Rudin said. □