



# Daily News Bulletin

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## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Israel razes Gaza buildings

Israeli engineers dynamited three buildings in the Gaza Strip apparently used by terrorists as surveillance towers.

Sunday's demolitions of the three partially constructed and uninhabited buildings at the Netzarim junction were in retaliation for the weekend killing of three Israeli soldiers in a raid on a nearby army base.

Israeli forces evacuated 2,000 nearby residents for the operation, then allowed them to return to their homes once the demolition operation was complete.

### Netzarim's fate debated

The deadly Palestinian raid on Netzarim has some Israeli Cabinet ministers saying the future of the Gaza settlement should be debated.

"We must not reward violence, but the time has come for the government to hold a discussion on the future of Netzarim," Justice Minister Yosef "Tommy" Lapid said at Sunday's Cabinet meeting.

Netzarim, a town of 60 families that evolved into a fortified army base after the Palestinian intifada was launched in September 2000, is lodged between Gaza City and several refugee camps to the south.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said the issue should not be up for discussion. "Netzarim should be maintained and bolstered," Cabinet minister Effi Eitam, of the National Religious Party, said. "And when there is someone to talk to it will be a community next to which the border will run."

### Jews worried by arrest of tycoon

Russian Jewish leaders expressed their concern over Saturday's arrest of Mikhail Khodorkovsky, a prominent Jewish businessman.

Believed to be Russia's wealthiest man and the head of the Yukos oil corporation, Khodorkovsky is facing charges on six counts, including tax evasion and theft of state property. His arrest came after more than three months of pressure on his corporation in what is widely seen as a politically motivated case against a man who is helping to bankroll the election campaigns of several opposition parties in Russia's upcoming parliamentary election, slated for December.

Khodorkovsky's close friend and business associate, Leonid Nevzlin, who is a former president of the Russian Jewish Congress, left Russia weeks ago and reportedly has applied for an Israeli passport.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES

### Bush is raising Jewish funds from Republicans — and Democrats

By Matthew E. Berger

WASHINGTON (JTA) — When Fred Zeidman raised money in the Jewish community for George W. Bush's presidential run in 2000, several Jewish supporters asked to give their donations in cash, afraid of having a public record of their transaction.

But this time around, Zeidman is not encountering timid Jews. He said many Jewish donors are eager to leap onto the Bush-Cheney bandwagon.

"The difference is night and day," said Zeidman, whom Bush appointed as chairman of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council in 2002. "You can't believe how easy it is."

Zeidman, a Houston resident who bills himself as a coordinator of Bush support in the Jewish community, said he and other Jewish fund-raisers for Bush say they have had little trouble raising the \$200,000 needed to join the "Rangers club" — the top ranking of Bush's financial backers.

More Jewish money was sent Bush's way when Zeidman and other prominent Jews hosted Vice President Dick Cheney at a \$2,000-a-plate New York fund-raiser last Friday. The event was geared toward the Jewish community; the invitation noted that "dietary laws will be observed."

While all accounts seem to suggest that Bush is getting unprecedented financial support in the Jewish community, it is still unclear whether that financial support will translate into votes come November 2004.

Jews traditionally have voted largely for Democratic candidates in national elections, but Republicans are hoping that support for Bush's foreign policy will mean a much stronger showing than the 19 percent he garnered in 2000.

In the fund raising realm, several big Republican donors, who contributed millions of dollars in "soft money" before new campaign finance laws were put into effect, also were leaders of the organized Jewish community. This time around, Bush is raising funds outside the normal Republican Jewish circle, finding a new crop of donors willing to contribute to a candidate they see as fervently pro-Israel.

"I think that Israel, the war on terrorism and homeland defense are all coming together right now," said Matthew Brooks, executive director of the Republican Jewish Coalition. He said Jewish donors "see leadership from this president in waging the war on terrorism as a critical thing."

Already, the RJC says, Jewish donors are poised to give more to Bush coffers than three years ago. Brooks estimated that RJC leadership contributed or raised more than \$7 million in 2000, and he expects that number to increase significantly this time around. While much of that money is coming from Jews who backed Bush in 2000, some of the money is from Democratic converts and new donors.

The Bush fund-raising machine is riding a wave of support within segments of the American Jewish community for Bush's policy on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Supporters point to his decision to disassociate from Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat as a defining moment for U.S. policy in the Middle East.

At a time of intense conflict in the region, some observers believe that foreign policy will play a greater role in picking a president.

While American Jews predominantly vote based on domestic issues and largely have a predisposition to vote Democratic, Middle East policy could be a larger factor

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Syria rattles sabers

Syria may target Golan Heights towns if attacked again by Israel, Syria's foreign minister hinted.

"If we are attacked again, the people will not stand for it, and we will have to carry out the will of the people," Farouk Al-Sharaa told the British Sunday Telegraph, referring to Israel's Oct. 5 airstrike against a suspected terrorist training camp outside Damascus. "We have many cards that have not been played. Don't forget there are many Israeli settlements on the Golan."

Israeli officials were unfazed by the threat.

### Knesset remembers Ze'evi

The Knesset held a special memorial service for a former Cabinet member on the second Jewish anniversary of his assassination.

Rehavim Ze'evi, who was murdered by Palestinian gunmen in a Jerusalem hotel on Oct. 17, 2001, was remembered Sunday on his second *yahrzeit*. Knesset Speaker Reuven Rivlin, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, Cabinet ministers, legislators and family members turned out to remember Ze'evi, a hawkish politician respected on both ends of the political spectrum for his principled stands.

### A 'dating' tale

Date sellers in Cairo are honoring French President Jacques Chirac's opposition to the Iraq war and support for the Palestinians.

The best and most expensive dates on sale in the city for the Muslim holy month of Ramadan have been given the name "Chirac dates," news reports said.

Chirac dates are on sale for more than \$3 a kilogram, double the price of the next highest quality, "Yasser Arafat dates."

The lowest quality dates are those named after Ariel Sharon and George Bush, on sale for 10 and 15 cents a kilogram, respectively.

than normal in 2004, said Ken Goldstein, a professor of political science and Jewish studies at the University of Wisconsin.

"We are at a time when there is a lot of uncertainty in the Middle East," he said. "American Jews are feeling under attack because of Israel as well."

He compared current times to 1980, when some Jewish support went to President Reagan because of concerns about President Carter and the Iran hostage crisis.

"Everything we are doing is to give evidence to the president that the Jewish community is supportive of his policies on Israel," Zeidman said.

Ever since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks transformed Bush into a wartime president — and coincided with an intensification of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict — Republicans have been stressing what they say is a growing trend of support for Bush in the American Jewish community.

It's a perception that Jewish Democrats combat fiercely.

Exit polls from the 2002 congressional elections showed that 35 percent of American Jews voted Republican, an increase from the 19 percent Bush received in 2000. But Democrats contest the exit polls — which were delayed almost a year because of data problems — and also suggested that they might not accurately predict support for Bush in 2004.

While it is nearly impossible to tell whether there is indeed a new trend in Jewish politics, it is hard to ignore the anecdotal evidence that shows at least some big Jewish Democrats writing checks for Bush. Jack Rosen, president of American Jewish Congress, has been backing Democratic presidential contenders for more than 20 years, but he said he recently cut a check for the president. "I think basically what I am saying is we need to recognize what this president has done for Israel," Rosen said.

He said that some of the Democratic candidates for president have been good on Israel — including some with long track records of support for the Jewish state — but it is impossible to be sure they will always side with the Jewish state when things get difficult. Bush, he said, has proven himself.

"Until these candidates come out with a clear policy on the Israeli-Palestinian situation and Yasser Arafat, I've got to look at the president, who has set out a policy and been firm on that policy," Rosen said.

While Democratic Jews have been trying to show that all of the would-be nominees are strong on the Middle East, they may be hurt by recent remarks by Democratic presidential candidate Howard Dean. The former Vermont governor recently suggested that the United States should have a more even-handed policy in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, raising the ire of some American Jews. Dean has since clarified his remarks and met with representatives of the Jewish community.

"The only possible way for Bush to make really significant gains in the Jewish community in 2004 is for the Democratic nominees to be perceived, rightfully or not rightfully, as anti-Israel," said Ira Forman, executive director of the National Jewish Democratic Council. "And that is a phenomenon that will not happen."

Forman is skeptical of the recent polling numbers touted by the RJC and said that support for Bush from the Jewish community is coming mostly from the organizational leadership, not voters. "In the central core of some of these organizations in the Jewish community there is a pro-Bush chorus," Forman said. "But if you look at the general electorate, it isn't happening."

Zeidman said that while Republicans are at an advantage, a Democratic nominee with a pro-Israel platform could balance Bush's support in the Jewish community.

If that happens, Jews may look at social policy to break the tie, and that may bring more liberal, pro-Israel Jewish voters back into the embrace of the Democratic Party.

That's one of the reasons Zeidman and others are doing so much fund raising now. But he is confident that Bush's support will not dissipate.

"People vote for or against an incumbent, not the people running against them," he said. "It's about support for the president or dissatisfaction with him."

It doesn't hurt that Bush has been heavily courting the Jewish community.

Aside from his Middle East policy, Bush has held numerous events geared toward a Jewish audience. He met during the High Holidays with a group of rabbis, and he welcomed the opening of an Anne Frank exhibit at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. □



## Daily News Bulletin

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## JEWISH WORLD

### U.S.: Activist funded Hamas

Federal investigators believe a prominent U.S. Muslim activist helped fund Hamas.

Abdurahman Alamoudi was charged Oct. 23 with bringing \$340,000 into the United States from Libya, forbidden under a law designating Libya as a state sponsor of terrorism.

Alamoudi has not been formally charged with involvement with Hamas and Al-Qaida, but the government made those allegations in arguing against freeing him on bond.

One Virginia charity run by Alamoudi, the Happy Hearts Trust, is alleged to have funded Hamas. Alamoudi helped found the American Muslim Council, but his access to leading Republicans and Democrats diminished after he expressed support for Hamas and Hezbollah in 2000.

### Springtime for German Jews

By 2005, the Jewish community in Germany will grow by 30 percent, to 130,000, a German Jewish leader said.

The rapid growth of German Jewry began in 1990 following the fall of communism, which prompted an influx of Jews from the former Soviet Union.

### Study confirms cancer risk

Jewish women with a particular genetic mutation have a high risk of contracting breast cancer, a new study says.

Ashkenazi Jewish women are prone to mutations in the BRCA gene that makes the bearer susceptible to breast cancer.

The effects can be mitigated if girls with a family history of the mutation perform exercises when they enter puberty and live a healthy lifestyle as adults.

The study of 1,008 Ashkenazi Jewish women was published last week in the journal *Science*.

### Poland wants to charge Israeli

Poland wants to extradite from Israel a Polish-born Jew on charges he killed German prisoners in a prison camp after World War II.

Solomon Morel, 83, is accused of killing 1,500 inmates at the Swietochlowice camp in Poland, the Scotsman, a Scottish newspaper, reported.

Israel has previously rejected calls to extradite Morel, saying the statute of limitations on his crimes has expired.

Following new testimony from prisoners at the camp, Poland upgraded charges against Morel to genocide.

Morel survived Auschwitz and lost more than 30 members of his family during the war.

There is no statute of limitations on genocide charges, the Scotsman said.

## Fatah leaders go to Washington, but their arguments fall on deaf ears

By Matthew E. Berger

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Three leaders of the Palestinian Fatah movement came to Washington to show they were reformers, but their message didn't win many followers among Washington's foreign policy community.

Ahmed Ghneim, a Fatah leader from eastern Jerusalem, said Oct. 23 that he believed dismantling terrorist organizations was a "completely empty concept."

"Do you think, with our weak security services, we have the ability to dismantle any group?" Ghneim said to audience members at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, which hosted the visit of the Fatah members.

Ghneim and two members of the Palestinian legislative council, Qadura Fares and Hatim Abdel Qada, met in Washington with congressional leaders and David Satterfield, deputy assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs.

But while they spoke of the need to reform the Palestinian Authority and discussed the prospects of new elections, their push for a cease-fire between Palestinian terrorist groups and Israel — instead of dismantling terrorist groups, as the Palestinians agreed to do under the "road map" peace plan — didn't win over many in the audience or elsewhere in Washington.

Indeed, Ghneim acknowledged that the group, from P.A. President Yasser Arafat's political movement, did not accomplish its goals while in Washington. It received no support from either the United States or Israel for a cease-fire.

"We believe now we have no partner, not in the United States, not in Israel," Ghneim said.

"Until now, there are no signals that we have partners for this purpose."

Ghneim suggested "serious actions" would be taken against those who opposed or violated the cease-fire.

He mentioned the prevention of protests and demonstrations in the streets, arrests and confiscation of weapons.

Through a translator, Fares said that Fatah officials receive signals from Hamas leaders that Hamas would agree to a "politically fair solution" to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, but he gave no indication of what an acceptable solution might look like.

The Fatah members' trip came on the heels of other progress by Palestinian reformers in Geneva who, in collaboration with Israeli doves, crafted a proposed peace agreement that would create a Palestinian state in the Gaza Strip and 98 percent of the West Bank, with transfers of Israeli territory to Palestinians making up the rest.

But that peace plan — called the Geneva accord — has no official political backing and was crafted by former politicians and negotiators who are no longer in government.

Analysts say the lukewarm welcome the Fatah leaders received in Washington is a sign of how relatively conservative the "reformers" actually are.

While the three deviated somewhat from the party line of Arafat loyalists, they echoed Arafat's positions when it came to curbing violence and dismantling terrorist groups. That was unacceptable in Washington.

"I think they fell short of what the Washington-based Middle East community was willing to accept," one Jewish official said.

"The day the Palestinians understand this is a war against terrorism, there will be a sense that the guys are ready."

One State Department official suggested that Satterfield's meeting with the Fatah leaders spoke more of the influence of the trip's coordinator — Dennis Ross, a former U.S. special envoy to the Middle East who now directs the Washington Institute — than it does of the potential of the visitors in Washington.

The Fatah leaders left Washington on Oct. 23.

They expressed the belief that increased U.S. engagement, which has been lacking since P.A. Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas resigned earlier this fall, was necessary to end violence.

"We believe America can still play an active role and must play an active role," Ghneim said. "If America cannot succeed to solve this issue, then who will?" □

## AROUND THE JEWISH WORLD

**Some in Paris say new city plan dooms the Jewish Marais district**

By Philip Carmel

PARIS (JTA) — It all comes down to an argument about a sidewalk, but for the chopped-herring and cheesecake sellers on Paris' famous Rue des Rosiers, it is nothing less than the destruction of Jewish heritage.

Here, in the heart of Le Marais, the capital's historic Jewish neighborhood, shopkeepers and residents are gearing up for an intense fight with the city council.

They claim that plans by the mayor of Paris's fourth district, Dominique Bertinotti, to close the street to vehicular traffic on Sunday afternoons are just the tip of an iceberg that ultimately will turn the entire area into a pedestrian promenade.

Such a plan, the shopkeepers say, will destroy the Jewish character of the neighborhood, killing off the little Jewish shops and making one of the world's most famous Jewish neighborhoods, with its narrow streets and picturesque storefronts, into little more than a theme park.

Michel Kalifa, a kosher butcher with a shop in one of the side streets just off Rue des Rosiers, goes so far as to accuse the mayor of deliberately trying to destroy the Jewish heritage of the Marais quarter, more commonly known by its Yiddish nickname, the Pletzl. "Maybe the mayor wants to mark out her territory, but she's going to eliminate all traces of the area's Jewish identity," Kalifa said.

The Pletzl, which retains an Old World look, was the destination for thousands of Eastern European Jews fleeing pogroms at the end of the 19th century.

Many simply arrived at Paris' Gare de l'Est railway station, handed the taxi driver a note with the word "Pletzl" written on it and then restarted their lives, creating a vibrant Yiddish-speaking neighborhood in the heart of Paris.

While still something of a shtetl, the Marais district is changing. Today, the neighborhood has both hip clothing stores and kosher butcher shops, and some areas have become quite popular among the capital's growing gay community.

Following the council's decision in June to start construction on the already very narrow sidewalk on the Rue des Rosiers, Kalifa set up an association of shopkeepers and residents to fight Bertinotti.

Recently, banners protesting the traffic changes began appearing in the neighborhood. Some simply called for the preservation of "village life" in the neighborhood. Others went farther.

"No to the destruction of Jewish memory," read one banner.

The council says the traffic changes come on the heels of numerous complaints about the general state of the trendy neighborhood.

"We're always getting complaints about cars parked on the sidewalks, the state of the property in the area and trash left on the streets," Aymeric Bojuy, director of the mayor's office, told JTA.

The plans also have the support of the neighborhood's younger set, who say they hope the Sunday traffic closures will give them greater access when the area is at its most crowded.

Olivier Benais, who works at the Rue Pave Yeshiva, just off

the Rue des Rosiers, said he understands the fears of the shopkeepers and some older residents, but said the council's plans are "a good idea" overall. "It's impossible here on Sunday afternoons and there will be less noise if the road is closed off," he said. "But I'm young and I don't have the connection that some of the Ashkenazim have to the area."

For the council, the issue is simply one of extending sidewalks, changing some of the one-way streets in the area and instituting the Sunday closures.

Opponents charge that the council is spending the money on the renovations as the first step of a plan to eventually turn the area into a trendy pedestrian promenade with outdoor cafes and art galleries. The traditional Jewish shops that mark the Pletzl's streets will be forced out, and the neighborhood's centuries-old Jewish character will fade, they say.

Bojuy called the claim preposterous.

"We want to extend a sidewalk and temporarily close off traffic on Sunday afternoons," he said. He said the mayor is aware of the special character of the Pletzl, and said it is "scandalous" to accuse the mayor of wanting to change that.

Up to 9,000 Jews lived in the Marais district until World War II, when many were deported under the Vichy regime. Today, Marais is a mecca for Jewish tourists who come here for nostalgia and a taste of chopped liver they remember from childhood.

For decades, Florence Finkelstajn's family has owned one of the best known Jewish shops in the area, selling apple strudel and cheesecake to generations of Jews. She says tourists come to her family's store for more than just food.

"People want to eat their roots," she said. "Second-generation Jews come here to rediscover their roots because today it's still here, while there's nothing left in Poland. We are here to preserve this culture."

Finkelstajn is a strong supporter of the shopkeepers association opposing the traffic changes. She says barring cars from the area on Sundays would hurt her strongest business day.

Still quintessentially Jewish, the area fills up on Fridays, Sundays and around the Jewish holidays with Parisian Jewish shoppers who no longer live in the area.

Hence, the widespread support from the area's non-food stores for the butchers, grocery stores and patisseries.

"It's all here because this is a food street. If the food shops go, everything goes," one shopkeeper said.

Some residents are concerned not about the promenade's commercial impact, but about its potential for increasing Sunday crowds.

"You just have to look at Les Halles" — a pedestrian area not far from the Marais district — "to see what might happen," local resident David Darmon said. "The place is going to fill up with drug addicts and winos."

Meanwhile, Jews from elsewhere in France are beginning to pay attention to the spat.

The Sukkot edition of France's leading Jewish weekly, *Actualite Juive*, devoted the first five pages of its coverage to the subject, under the headline, "Rue des Rosiers: The Last Straw."

In response, the council promptly posted notices in the area detailing its plans and firmly denying any designs to build a full-scale pedestrian promenade.

The council also widely advertised a public meeting on the subject, to be held at the end of the month. □