

## IN THE NEWS

## Suicide bombing kills 4 in Gaza Strip

A female Palestinian suicide bomber killed four Israelis at the main crossing point between Israel and the Gaza Strip.

Three Israeli soldiers and one civilian were killed in Wednesday's blast at the Erez crossing, which also wounded several people.

Hamas and the Al-Aksa Brigade jointly claimed responsibility for the bombing, which occurred at a terminal where Israeli troops screen Palestinian laborers coming to work inside Israel.

It was the first such attack since Dec. 25.

## Activist dies in English hospital

A pro-Palestinian activist wounded last year by Israeli army fire in the Gaza Strip died.

Tom Hurndall, a British citizen who worked with the International Solidarity Movement, was shot in the head by a sniper while helping Palestinian children cross a road into a Rafah refugee camp April 11.

Hurndall, 22, died Wednesday in a London hospital.

An Israeli soldier is under arrest for the shooting and could face manslaughter charges, security sources said.

## Belarus Jewish leader in prison after protest

A Jewish leader in Belarus was jailed after protesting government policies.

Yakov Gutman was arrested Wednesday after he held an unsanctioned protest near the presidential office in the former Soviet republic's capital of Minsk.

Gutman stood outside President Alexander Lukashenko's office with a sign reading, "Please stop the destruction of synagogues, cemeteries and monuments," The Associated Press reported.

Jewish leaders have been upset by anti-Semitic incidents during the past year.

# WORLD REPORT

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## Advocates hope winter trips translate into spring activism

By RACHEL POMERANCE

**N**EW YORK (JTA) — After 12 days of advocacy training in the Jewish state, Jonathan Goldberg is returning to the University of Michigan with concrete plans for promoting Israel's cause on campus.

"The trick is to translate" passion for Israel "into something that somebody else would care about," says Goldberg, a sophomore who went to Israel for an advocacy workshop run by Hillel and the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

It's about "making the people who don't really know much about Israel love Israel," he said.

With the spring semester coming, students like Goldberg are smitten with a new strategy for Israel advocacy on campus: love.

Thousands of Jewish students went to Israel over winter break on their own or in formal trips organized by groups like the Jewish Agency for Israel and Birthright Israel.

Hillel, the central Jewish campus group, unveiled a campaign called "Love is Real," launched by sexpert Ruth Westheimer, to inspire passion — or love — for Israel.

"When you love something, you can disagree with aspects of the policy, but at the end of the day it's still something you very much support," said Daniel Frankenstein, a senior at the University of California at Berkeley.

The Israel programs aim to imbue students with the knowledge and emotion only first-hand experience in Israel can provide, organizers said. The goal is for students to return to campus with personal stories and new energy to help them promote Israel effec-

tively and get others involved in the cause.

Activists say the stakes are big. College campuses represent the next generation of American opinion makers, and showing them Israel's side is essential for the security of the U.S.-Israel bond.

After the beginning of the intifada in September 2000 led to an outbreak of anti-Israel activism at campuses across the United States, Jewish groups have worked to craft increasingly sophisticated advocacy training for students.

Three years in, the activists behind the advocacy programs are confident the message is getting out.

Ritzky pro-Israel programs groom campus activists into savvy leaders, and sometimes even professional lobbyists. AIPAC, for example, offered full-time jobs to three of the

students who attended the group's winter trip. AIPAC calls its campus strategy "retail engagement" — dispatching pro-Israel messages on a peer-to-peer basis.

Many of the students who participate in the training programs say they feel very proud about being in a positive pro-Israel movement.

They say they leave the programs with an articulate message and a bevy of ideas to fuel Zionist identity, from classes on krav maga — a type of self-defense taught in the Israeli military — to forging ties with other campus groups.

The anti-Israel activists turn off students with their hostile attitude, some of the advocates for Israel believe.

"We're really making it clear to people that the pro-Israel movement is one that encompasses many different beliefs," said

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FOCUS  
ON  
ISSUES

## ■ Jewish groups are investing a lot of effort in college students

*Continued from page 1*

Frankenstein. It is "very attractive to people."

If tension resurfaces at Berkeley — a hotbed of anti-Israel activism during the intifada — pro-Israel activists say they're prepared.

Activists say they expect anti-Israel attacks this year to target Israel's talk of unilateral separation and the West Bank security barrier. But not all Jewish college students have morphed into Middle East policy wonks. Many remain confused or intimidated when the Israeli-Palestinian conflict reaches campus.

"I definitely have had moments where I was very, very fearful," said Wayne Klitofsky, a sophomore at the University of California at San Diego.

An Alpha Epsilon Pi activist who attended his fraternity's Israel advocacy training last fall, Klitofsky says he gets "death stares from members of the other side all the time."

Last year, he brokered an agreement among activists against offensive antics, after pro-Palestinian students staged a scene of mock Israeli soldiers shooting pregnant women. This fall, however, the pro-Palestinian students backed out of the agreement, Klitofsky said, so he expects an "incredibly intense" semester.

At Georgetown University, the chilly relations between pro-Israel and pro-Palestinian students resemble "a cold war on campus," said Deidre Moskowitz, president of the Jewish Student Association.

The debate on Israel does not stop at the classroom door.

Moskowitz, who is minoring in justice and peace studies, said she often hears students and professors calling the U.S.-Israel relationship "the catalyst for the war in Iraq." Her contemporaries often call Israeli soldiers the "real terrorists," she said.

Fighting back in class isn't easy, Moskowitz said.

"Obviously, I'm not a tenured professor. I don't have the same clout as someone spouting off their beliefs," she said.

Even when hostilities aren't a challenge, engaging apathetic students is. The Middle East is "really off everyone's radar down here," said Greg Swartzberg, coordinator of a pro-Israel group at the University of Georgia.

At the University of Pennsylvania, pro-Israel activists say they can't take it for granted that the issue won't become heated on campus.

"When you look at the media and you watch TV and CNN, the image that one can have of the situation is one that doesn't lend itself to support for Israel," said Gabrielle Mashbaum, a student leader for the Jewish National Fund's Caravan for Democracy, which sends speakers to campuses to promote Israel's democratic

values.

"When people don't have that background or education in the history, then there's a risk of sort of losing them," Mashbaum said.

That's why activist groups are turning to one-on-one advocacy.

"What keeps me up at night is that we've only scratched the surface," said Jonathan Kessler, AIPAC's leadership development director.

"We've got the right prescription," he said, pointing out that pro-Israel groups constantly are launching new programs that interest students.

But he's worried that only a quarter of the country's 2,400 major colleges have a pro-Israel presence, and students have grown tired of the conflict. The answer, Kessler and others say, is personal engagement. AIPAC teaches students to engage others through pro-Israel voter registration.

In addition to conducting regional campaign training institutes, AIPAC urges students to get involved with political campaigns and organize student delegations to lobby congressmen in their districts and in Washington.

Hillel has adopted the same tack. The group is asking its nearly 3,000 students returning from winter trips to Israel to give their peers "Love is Real" buttons. ■

**'I definitely have had moments where I was very, very fearful.'**

**Wayne Klitofsky**

Student, UCSD

## Ariel Sharon scandal intensifies

JERUSALEM (JTA) — A former aide to Ariel Sharon said the Israeli prime minister knew about illicit funding of his political campaigns.

On Monday, David Spector, a strategy consultant who helped Sharon win the 1999 Likud Party primary, told Israel's Channel Two television that the prime minister was involved in all aspects of the campaign financing.

This financing includes an allegedly illegal \$1.5 million loan from a South African friend.

Spector played a recording of what he said was a conversation between himself and Sharon in which the latter asked for documents on foreign currency transfers to Israeli bank accounts.

Businessman David Appel allegedly tried to purchase a Greek island to turn it into a resort in 1999.

He hired Gilad Sharon, then 30, as a consultant and agreed to pay him \$20,000 a week plus a bonus of \$1.5 million if the project was implemented.

Police are investigating the business relationship between Appel and Sharon to determine whether Appel paid him as a bribe in order to garner the help of his father, then foreign minister, the Jerusalem Post reported.

Sharon has maintained his innocence, saying his sons Gilad and Omri handled his campaign finances.

On Tuesday, the opposition Labor Party demanded that Sharon resign. ■

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# Suicide bombing shows Hamas still active

By DAN BARON

TEL AVIV (JTA) — In dying, Reem al-Reyashi dealt a double blow: to Israelis who hoped Hamas had decided to show restraint and to fellow Palestinians quietly earning a living in one of the few places where Israeli-Palestinian cooperation still thrives.

Reyashi, a 22-year-old mother of two and the first female suicide terrorist to be used by the leading Palestinian Islamist group, struck Wednesday at the Erez crossing into Israel, inside a terminal where Gazan laborers bound for work at a nearby joint industrial park undergo security checks.

Having set off metal detectors, Reyashi told Israeli guards she had a steel splint in her leg. As they gathered around, she warned other Palestinians in the building to flee and hit the detonator on her hidden bomb. Three soldiers and an Israeli civilian died with her; 12 people were injured.

Three of the four casualties were identified: Staff Sgt. Vladimir Trostinsky, 22, of Rehovot; Staff Sgt. Tzur Or, 20, of Rishon le-Zion, and Cpl. Andrei Kegles, of Nahariya.

Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Ahmed Qurei declined to condemn the attack, saying that continued Israeli attacks and restrictions on the Palestinians are leading "to more escalation on both sides."

The Erez attack was claimed jointly by

Hamas and the Al-Aksa Brigade, the terrorist wing of P.A. President Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement.

Twelve hours earlier, Al-Aksa Brigade gunmen killed Ro'i Arbel, a 30-year-old father of five, in a roadside ambush.

With the "road map" peace plan largely eclipsed by controversy over Israel's security fence, Jerusalem buzzed with speculation that self-destructive Palestinian violence may peak once more.

"This was another murderous expedition by Palestinian terrorists, which hits them in their very own bread basket," said David Baker, of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's office, referring to some 3,000 Palestinians who work at the various factories in the Erez industrial park. The park was shuttered after the attack.

Hamas had seemed dormant for months, leading some analysts to speculate that it had made a strategic decision to halt attacks — at least in Israel proper.

That theory sat well with calls from some in the Palestinian Authority for a new policy whereby they would focus less on fighting for an independent state and instead threaten to seek Israeli citizenship, eventually turning the Jewish state into an Arab one through demographic force.

But on Wednesday, Hamas made it clear that terrorist attacks had been limited only because of Israeli security precautions,

including the fence, analysts said. So successful are Israeli security personnel these days at spotting suicide bombers that the Islamists have been forced to reverse their ideological opposition to allowing women to become "martyrs," they said.

"For the first time," Hamas "used a female fighter and not a male fighter, and that was a new development in resistance against the enemy," Hamas founder Sheik Ahmed Yassin told Reuters. "Resistance will escalate against this enemy."

Four women suicide bombers have already struck on behalf of the Al-Aksa Brigade, and two for Islamic Jihad.

Unlike her predecessors, Reyashi was a mother. In her video farewell, she appeared smiling and cradling a Kalashnikov rifle.

"I hope to knock on the doors of heaven with the skulls of Zionists," Reyashi said in a final statement dedicated to her toddler children.

Her relatives in Gaza City did not immediately speak to reporters.

"It is Hamas and Islamic Jihad that should stand trial at The Hague for war crimes, not Israel," Sharon spokesman Ra'anana Gissin told reporters, referring to hearings on Israel's security fence to be held next month at the International Court of Justice. The hearings were scheduled at the Palestinians' behest.

## He's no Geraldo, but Jewish anchor is Ukrainian star

By LEV KRICHEVSKY

DNEPROPETROVSK, Ukraine (JTA) — Oleg Rostovtsev is a local celebrity. Strangers approach him on the street here to talk, and when he walked into a local cafe recently, many heads turned in his direction.

Not bad for the anchor of a Jewish TV show in Ukraine.

For almost 10 seasons, Rostovtsev, 38, has appeared every week on local television anchoring his show, "Alef: In Our Times."

In addition to local Jewish news, the program is about Jewish holidays and tradition and devotes much of its air time to international Jewish subjects. The show may be the longest running and most successful Jewish TV project in the former Soviet Union.

"When the show went on air for the first time, it was a shock for many Jews and non-Jews," he recalls. His popularity in this industrial city of 1.3 million in eastern Ukraine may come as a surprise to some, given Rostovtsev's career as a Jewish journalist.

State-sponsored anti-Semitism in Ukraine is gone now, but many Jews, convinced that deep-seated antipathy toward Jews still exists, remain shy about their roots.

Indeed, Rostovtsev's father, who emigrated to Israel in the early 1990s, did not approve of his career.

After the Soviet Union collapsed and Ukraine became independent in 1991, Rostovtsev started a Jewish radio program, the precursor to his current show. He says he wanted to show both Jews and non-Jews that Judaism is not cause for embarrassment.

"If in this city the level of anti-Semitism has decreased, then my program has contributed its small share to this. You may not like nor understand Jews very much, but at least you are not scared of them anymore," he says.

With just Rostovtsev and his production team of four people, the 30-minute program became one of the most successful locally produced shows, with a weekly audience of 200,000 viewers — roughly 15 times the size of the city's Jewish community.

Almost every week, the show has some commentary on Israeli news, done by Rostovtsev, and he often goes on air without any accompanying television footage from Israel.

The program's budget, \$2,000 a month, is covered by local Jews, and other Jewish sources, including the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and the Jewish Agency for Israel.

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## WORLD

### Annan blasts anti-Semitism

In a gala dinner with U.K. dignitaries Tuesday night, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan condemned Islamophobia and anti-Semitism.

"No one should underestimate the depth of the scars left by the long history of persecution, pogroms, institutionalized discrimination and other degradation, culminating in the Holocaust, that has been inflicted on the Jews," Annan said. No one should use criticism of Israeli actions as a mask for anti-Semitism — but Israel also shouldn't use charges of anti-Semitism to stifle debate, Annan said.

"The United Nations itself is still living with the legacy of the unfortunate resolution that declared Zionism to be a form of racism and racial discrimination, even though the General Assembly revoked it in 1991," he said.

Israeli officials called the speech a "step in the right direction."

### Report: Russian lawmakers full of hate

The three opposition parties who won seats in Russia's parliamentary elections openly profess hatred, a new report says.

The three parties, Motherland, the LDPR and the Communists, all of whom received roughly the same number of votes in December as the pro-government United Russia Party, have members with histories of anti-Semitic and xenophobic statements, according to "In Their Own Words: Extremist Nationalists in the New Duma," released this week by the Washington-based Union of Councils for Jews in the Former Soviet Union.

But experts agree that these parties will have little influence on decision making in the Duma, Russia's lower house, where the pro-Kremlin party received a strong majority of 300 of the chamber's 450 seats. The report is available at [www.ucsj.org](http://www.ucsj.org).

### Holocaust denier gets degrees back

A French court reinstated a Holocaust denier's academic degrees.

Jean Plantin initially obtained master's degrees from the University of Lyon for two studies he wrote in the early 1990s denying that 6 million Jews were killed by the Nazis. However, when Plantin was convicted and sentenced in 2000 for denying crimes against humanity, the university withdrew the degrees on the grounds that they had been achieved as a result of an administrative fault.

On Wednesday, a court in Lyon upheld Plantin's argument that the university had acted illegally, since any challenge to the awards had to be made within four months of their allocation. Pantin also is appealing a six-month prison sentence handed down to him last year for continuing to disseminate revisionist material over the Internet.

## MIDDLE EAST

### Lawmaker opposes fence

An Israeli Arab lawmaker offered to testify against the West Bank security barrier at The Hague. The International Court of Justice tribunal is to hold hearings on the legality of the project next month, at the Palestinians' behest.

In a letter to the court made public Wednesday, Mohammad Barakeh of the anti-Zionist, Communist Hadash Party volunteered to come to The Hague to argue that the fence is a "war crime."

### Israel puts rabbi on trial

An American-born rabbi went on trial for blocking Israeli bulldozers that were demolishing Palestinian homes. Arik Ascherman of Rabbis for Human Rights Israel does not deny that he blocked the bulldozers, which were demolishing illegally built homes, but he says

it was his obligation to stop what he views as an illegal policy.

If convicted, Ascherman could face three years in jail and fines.

### Israeli-Palestinian meeting fails

A secret meeting of Israeli and Palestinian leaders last week in Turkey reportedly failed. The meeting failed after the two sides couldn't agree on ways to implement the "road map" peace plan, Ha'aretz said. The meeting reportedly was the ninth such gathering since the road map was launched last year.

### Qurei won't condemn bombing

The Palestinian Authority prime minister refused to condemn a suicide bombing Wednesday that killed four Israelis. Ahmed Qurei said continued Israeli military operations and restrictions are leading to an escalation of Palestinian violence.

### Syrian leader: No talks, no peace

Syria will not reach peace with Israel as long as Ariel Sharon remains in power, Syria's prime minister said.

Speaking to the Al-Jazeera network this week, Naji Al-Atari said Israeli President Moshe Katsav's invitation to Bashar Assad to visit Jerusalem was a propaganda ploy. Sharon, the Israeli prime minister, has said Syria must stop supporting terrorist groups if it wants to make peace.

### Terror victims' families sue for damages

Israeli relatives of victims of a December 2001 terrorist attack are suing the Palestinian Authority. The relatives have filed suit for approximately \$55 million. They claim Palestinian officials financed the attack, which took place at the Jerusalem Ben Yehuda promenade and killed 11 people, mostly youngsters.

In a related development, an Israeli Supreme Court judge will appoint a panel of judges to decide if the Jerusalem District Court is allowed to judge claims against the Palestinian Authority.

## NORTH AMERICA

### Senate wants Muslim records

A U.S. Senate panel is seeking records from the Internal Revenue Service for the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development, a Texas-based Muslim charity whose assets were frozen by President Bush in 2001 for allegedly sending money to Hamas, which is on the State Department's list of foreign terrorist organizations.

The request is part of an investigation into links between tax-exempt organizations and terrorism, including Al-Qaida, according to The Washington Post.

### Fund for N.Y. poor launching

A New York group is launching a fund to raise money for emergency aid to the needy. The Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty is starting a Fund for the Jewish Poor aimed at ensuring a ready source of emergency cash assistance to the needy, spokesman Kalman Yeger said.

### Lithuanian Nazi leaves U.S.

A former Lithuanian Nazi policeman has been deported to Germany.

A U.S. immigration judge found that Algimantas Dailide, 82, was a member of the Lithuanian security police, which arrested Jews trying to escape Vilna's Jewish ghetto.

Dailide's appeal of the ruling failed.

Dailide came to the United States in 1950, falsely telling immigration officials he had been a forester during the war.