

## IN THE NEWS

## Arson destroys Paris Jewish center

A Jewish community center in Paris was destroyed in a suspected arson.

According to police sources, the fire at the Rue Popincourt Center in Paris' 11th District was started early Sunday and destroyed the center, which was located on the ground floor of a five-story building. The center, which housed a community soup kitchen, was unoccupied at the time of the attack.

Police found anti-Semitic inscriptions on two refrigerators in the building as well as a burned-out motor scooter, which they believe to be the source of the suspected arson.

French President Jacques Chirac condemned the attack.

## U.S. shifting on settlements?

The United States could approve the "natural growth" of settlements in the West Bank. "There is some flexibility there," a senior Bush administration official was quoted as saying Saturday regarding a New York Times report that Washington would allow new Israeli construction in West Bank settlements to accommodate their natural population growth.

The statements appeared to run counter to the U.S.-led "road map" to Israeli-Palestinian peace, which requires a freeze on settlement expansion. [Story, Pg. 2]

## Brazilian leader against anti-Semitism

Brazil's president signed a petition opposing anti-Semitism and pledged that Brazil would support such a resolution at the United Nations.

Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva made the commitment at a meeting last Friday in Brasilia with a delegation led by Rabbi Israel Singer, chairman of the World Jewish Congress; Jack Terpins, president of the Latin American Jewish Congress; and Henry Sobel, rabbi of Brazil's largest synagogue.

# WORLD REPORT

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## Hamas indictment shows use of Mafia laws to fight terror

By RON KAMPEAS

**W**ASHINGTON (JTA) — A high-profile U.S. indictment of three men for Hamas-related activities is less about obtaining justice for victims of anti-Israel terrorism in this particular case than about drying up financing for future attacks.

The recent use by U.S. authorities of racketeering laws to go after terrorist fundraisers helps close a loophole in another common law enforcement method — designating groups as terrorist organizations and making contributions to them prosecutable.

While effective, terrorist designation helped perpetuate a "whack-a-mole" game: Terrorist groups can easily change names and leadership, buying time until the cogs of U.S. bureaucracy add the new name to the State Department's terrorist list.

By extending the 1970 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations statute to terrorist activities, the Justice Department was able to leapfrog such limitations: The crimes alleged in last Friday's announcement stretched back 15 years, well before Hamas was officially designated as a terrorist group.

At least two of the three men named in the indictment unsealed last Friday by Attorney General John Ashcroft were exempt from other anti-terrorism laws because they had raised funds for Hamas before its 1995 designation as a terrorist group.

Ashcroft named Mousa Mohammed Abu Marzook, formerly of northern Virginia; Muhammad Hamid Khalil Salah, of Chicago; and Hasan Abdelraziq Ashqar, of Alex-

andria, Va. Salah and Ashqar were arrested Aug. 19. Marzook — who was deported from the United States in 1997, over Israeli protestations — is in Syria.

It was the second major indictment against Hamas in the past month: In July, authorities charged the Dallas-based Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development, and seven of its officers, with 42 counts of using the group's tax-exempt status as a legitimate charity to fund the terrorist group.

Salah pleaded innocent, while Ashqar argued that the charges are related to a case he is already fighting.

Marzook denied the accusations last Friday, saying they were motivated by the U.S. presidential campaign.

"This is election campaigning," he told The Associated Press in Damascus. U.S. officials "want to say to

the American public that they are succeeding in fighting terrorism."

"Every week they come up with a new case before the American public, but these are drawn from files that are tens of years old," he added.

The indictments show the seriousness the Justice Department attaches to cutting off terrorist funding, said Matthew Levitt, a former FBI analyst now working at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

"Even if it doesn't have an impact, it does send a message that the political and social wings of Hamas are in no way distinct from the military wing," Levitt told JTA.

The Anti-Defamation League welcomed the indictment.

"While targeting innocent Israelis in

*Continued on page 2*

BEHIND  
THE  
HEADLINES

## ■ *The indictment is the second against Hamas in the last month*

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restaurants, cafes and buses, Hamas has shown great aptitude for using every available means to raise money, even in the United States," the ADL said in a statement.

The charges will help prod charitable givers to examine more carefully where they send their money, Levitt said.

"We need to encourage people who want to give charitably to the Palestinians to give to other organizations," he said.

Salah is alleged to have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars in the United States from 1989-1993.

Salah also is alleged to have met with Hamas leaders in the West Bank in 1992, to have cut checks for arms purchases and to have agreed to raise additional money from Marzook and others for terrorist activities.

Marzook currently is one of the top Hamas leaders in Syria and beyond the reach of American law. Salah and Ashqar already faced non-RICO charges.

Still, use of the RICO statutes was intended more to stem future fund-raising

than to bring about justice in this particular case.

Ashcroft pledged that his department would crack down on any fund raising that might find its way to terrorist groups.

"The United States makes no distinction between those who carry out terrorist attacks and those who knowingly finance, manage or supervise terrorist organizations," he said.

Until now, RICO's primary target has been the Mafia, and the laundry list of alleged misdeeds Ashcroft pronounced sounded not far removed from a mob indictment: "Multiple solicitations of first degree murder; conspiracy to kill, kidnap, maim and injure persons in a foreign country; material support of terrorism, hostage taking and money laundering."

Ashcroft's Justice Department has argued that anti-terrorist efforts could benefit from the tools of traditional crime-fighting, and much of the Patriot

Act's provisions on information sharing among agencies, phone tapping and search laws are borrowed from practices first used to track mobsters.

Civil libertarians have said extending such crime-fighting tools to the fight against terrorism could create a slippery slope that would criminalize some politics. But Ashcroft

insists the measures are necessary to stem terrorism.

"The case would have been much more difficult to bring were it not for information sharing authorized by the USA Patriot Act," he said. ■

The indictments 'send a message that the political and social wings of Hamas are in no ways distinct from the military wing.'

**Matthew Levitt**

Former FBI analyst

## Washington may be changing tune on settlements

By DAN BARON

JERUSALEM (JTA) — With apparent approval from the United States, Israel is cementing its hold on some settlement blocs in the West Bank.

A weekend report in The New York

Times that the Bush administration will not contest some new construction within the existing settlement boundaries, in an apparent reversal of the U.S.-led peace "road map," met with little surprise in Israel.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's government had run ads for bids on West Bank building contracts for weeks, drawing only mild criticism from U.S. officials. ■

That the campaign came as Sharon struggled to win over the Likud Party on his plan to "disengage" from the Palestinians is seen as no coincidence.

"Sharon needs to convince Israeli hawks that there is a trade-off for quitting the Gaza Strip," a senior Prime Minister's Office source said Sunday, referring to the biggest withdrawal slated for 2005 under the disengagement plan. "That means making it clear that West Bank enclaves will grow."

According to Ha'aretz, the United States decided to step in on the Israeli prime minister's behalf after the Likud Central Committee voted against his bid to bring the Labor Party into a "national unity"

government and thus shore up his plan.

Israel has long argued that it should be allowed to develop settlements in order to cope with their "natural growth," or children born to residents.

Sharon "knew the American administration would find it difficult to denounce him while he was struggling against the right and Likud rebels. Certainly not when President George Bush himself is fighting for another term," wrote Ha'aretz analyst Aluf Benn, alluding to crucial Jewish votes in the upcoming U.S. presidential elections.

Bush signaled his support for Israel's retaining West Bank settlement blocs in April, when he said after a historic White House meeting with Sharon that "it is unrealistic to expect that the outcome of final-status negotiations will be a full and complete return to the armistice lines of 1949."

But the Arab world still clings to the idea that the "road map" guarantees the Palestinians full statehood in all of the West Bank and Gaza, despite their failure to crack down on terrorist groups as required by the plan. ■



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**THIS WEEK****MONDAY**

■ The 20-Something Think Tank, a three-day program that was devised by the L.A.-based Professional Leaders Project, continues through Tuesday. The think tank aims to determine how to reach and foster Jewish professional leaders. The program is followed by CareerBreak, a four-day program that pairs Jewish youths with Jewish professionals whom they will shadow at work. More information on the programs can be found on the Web at [www.jewishleaders.net](http://www.jewishleaders.net).

**TUESDAY**

■ The AMIA Jewish community center in Buenos Aires celebrates its 110th birthday with a concert at the Colon Theatre. The celebration will be aired on the national public television channel.

**WEDNESDAY**

■ A new Conservative synagogue is inaugurated in Buenos Aires. It will serve some 150 families that belong to the 11-year-old Amijai Jewish community center.

**SUNDAY**

■ The Israel Project hosts a pro-Israel, anti-terrorism rally in New York as leaders converge for the Republican National Convention. The rally, co-sponsored by the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, UJA-Federation of New York and the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, will feature musical guests Evan and Jaron. Sunday afternoon, lawmakers are expected to join Jewish delegates at a welcoming party hosted by several Jewish organizations at Chelsea Piers. Protesters are expected to rally against the war in Iraq and other Bush administration policies outside Madison Square Garden, the site of the convention.

■ The New York Mets host their annual Jewish Heritage day. The game against the Los Angeles Dodgers is part of the Mets' annual ethnic week. Before the game, Jewish music and dancing will be featured; and in past years, the national anthem has been sung in Yiddish.

■ The National Baseball Hall of Fame will host a gathering to celebrate the contribution of Jewish baseball players on Sunday and Monday in Cooperstown, N.Y. The panel discussions, films and clinics will take place a week before the opening of "Pioneers, Superstars and Journeymen: American Jewish Baseball Players, 1882-2004," at the American Jewish Historical Society. The gathering was inspired by a set of baseball cards produced by Jewish Major Leaguers Inc. for the society. The card set, which is nearly sold-out, salutes the more than 140 Jewish big-league players in baseball history.

# Munich massacre marked in Athens

By JEAN COHEN

ATHENS (JTA) — Several political and sports dignitaries attended a memorial service held here for the 11 Israelis killed at the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich.

But the widow of one of the Israelis killed by Palestinian terrorists at the Munich Games stole the show at the Israeli ambassador's residence.

In her speech, Ankie Spitzer pressed Dr. Jacques Rogge, the president of the International Olympic Committee, to hold a memorial for those killed as part of the Olympic Games.

"Dr. Rogge, you were an Olympian in Munich, you were the brother of the 11 murdered athletes. All of you were part of this great Olympic family," said Spitzer, whose husband, fencing coach Andre Spitzer, was among the 11 killed. "Then why is it that tonight we are standing here at the Israeli ambassador's residence. We should have this memorial in front of all athletes sponsored by the IOC, because this is not an Israeli issue. This concerns the whole Olympic family."

Many of the nearly 300 people in attendance at the Aug. 19 service gave Spitzer a standing ovation.

After Spitzer spoke, Rogge, who competed in yachting at the 1968, 1972 and 1976 Olympics, took the podium.

He told the audience that he "was one of the 7,000 athletes representing 121 countries in what should have been a festival of sport, of humankind and friendship. But these games were sent into darkness. The fifth of September, 1972, changed the face of the Olympic movement and the Olympic Games forever."

Rogge discussed typical Olympic themes — brotherhood, friendship and the need to keep politics out of the Games — but did not respond to Spitzer's request to remember the slain athletes at the Games themselves.

"I was very disappointed" in Rogge's speech, Spitzer told JTA after the service.

But she admitted that Rogge's pres-

ence at the ceremony, the first time a sitting president had attended such a ceremony since the Munich Games, "was a step in the right direction."

Rogge was not the only dignitary in attendance. Prince Albert of Monaco, Athens Mayor Dora Bakoyanni, Greece's interior minister, Prokopis Pavlopoulos and Israeli Cabinet minister Limor Livnat, were there, as was the former president of the International Olympic Committee, Juan Antonio Samaranch.

First to the podium was Tzvi Hashivian, the president of the Israel Olympic Committee. Hashivian made it clear that

terror will never deter Israeli sports.

Said Hashivian: "We swore in Munich that we will continue participating in sport events all over the world and we do so, showing to terror that they did not kill our athletic spirit."

The world was again reminded of the way politics is insert-

ed into the Olympic Games last week in Athens, when an Iranian athlete refused to fight his Israeli competitor in judo.

Hashivian was followed by Yakov Arar, the chief rabbi of Greece, who recited the Mourners Kaddish for the athletes.

On Sept. 5, 1972, the athletes were taken hostage by members of the Palestinian Black September terrorist group. The terrorists killed their hostages during a botched rescue attempt by German police at the Furstenfeldbruck military airport.

Israel's ambassador to Greece, Ram Aviram, was pleased with the ceremony. "The event was marked by the Greek government in a very honorable way. The perception in Greece, along with the other free nations of the world, is that terror must be fought in all of its forms."

For her part, Spitzer vowed to press on.

"When we went to Montreal four years after Munich and asked for a memorial we were laughed at," she said. "We have suggested the minimum of one minute of silence without even mentioning that they were Israelis or Jews, but nothing happened. Yet we will go on until we succeed." ■

The widow of one of the 11 Israelis killed at the 1972 Olympics presses for more official recognition of the incident.

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## NORTH AMERICA

### One nutty professor

A Los Angeles-area psychology professor was convicted of perpetrating a hate crime hoax by vandalizing her own car with racist and anti-Semitic graffiti.

On Aug. 18, a Los Angeles County Superior Court jury in Pomona found Kerri Dunn guilty of filing a false police report and attempting insurance fraud, which is punishable by up to three-and-a-half years in prison.

When the apparent hate crime was initially reported on March 9, the campus and Jewish communities reacted with outrage, staging daylong sit-ins, teach-ins, forums and rallies.

Dunn, then an assistant visiting professor at Claremont McKenna College, reported that her car had been vandalized after she had given a lecture on racism.

She claimed the car's tires had been slashed, windows broken and slurs and a half-finished swastika spray-painted on the vehicle.

Witnesses later said they saw Dunn vandalizing her own car.

### Peace Now blasts Bush

Americans for Peace Now said President Bush has failed to show leadership on the issue of settlement expansion.

The group said Israel's recent opening of bidding for the construction of more than 1,000 new apartments in the West Bank violates agreements with the United States.

"As American Jews committed to Israel's security, stability and continued existence as a Jewish, democratic state, we are disappointed at your failure to show leadership on these issues," the group wrote to Bush on Aug. 19.

Bush spokesmen have said they oppose any expansion of Israeli settlements, but refused to specifically address the new building plans.

The Israeli government agreed to freeze settlement expansion under the "road map" peace plan, but says that it is allowed to build within existing settlements that likely will be annexed to Israel under any final peace deal.

## WORLD

### No sanctions on Iranian judoka

World judo's governing body declined to penalize an Iranian athlete who refused to compete against an Israeli at the Athens Olympics.

Despite earlier statements by Iranian officials that Arash Miresmaeili would not fight Udi Vaks on Aug. 15 because of Iran's political boycott of Israel, the International Judo Federation accepted the argument that Miresmaeili didn't fight simply because he didn't make weight.

"As the IJF has no rule for penalizing overweight athletes, the IJF executive committee decided not to take any sanction against Arash Miresmaeili," the federation said in a statement.

Miresmaeili weighed in for the bout more than 11 pounds over the 145-pound limit, an extraordinary margin for a double world champion. Iranian officials then suggested giving Miresmaeili a \$150,000 prize for his political stance.

In Washington, Senate minority leader Tom Daschle (D-S.D.) and minority whip Harry Reid (D-Nev.) on Wednesday urged the International Olympic Committee to pressure Iranian officials to rebuke Miresmaeili.

If they won't, the IOC should strip the Iranian delegation of its credentials, the legislators said.

### Buenos Aires lawmaker could be suspended

A commission of the Buenos Aires legislature demanded six months suspension without salary for a city legislator who made anti-Semitic comment about a staff member. Mirta Onega was caught on a hidden camera making the slur about one of the legislature's employees in late May.

Although she later apologized, a special commission of 10 legislators representing most of the political parties condemned her actions last week. The city legislature still has to approve the verdict.

### Shalom cancels trip to Argentina

Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom canceled a visit to Argentina. Shalom was to visit this week to celebrate the 110th anniversary of the AMIA Jewish center.

According to the Israeli Embassy, Shalom canceled the trip because of problems within his Likud Party.

## MIDDLE EAST

### Hezbollah: Prisoner talks continue

Hezbollah is still in talks with Israel on a second prisoner exchange, the Lebanese militia's leader said.

"I assure you that negotiations are still going on with the German mediator," Hezbollah leader Sheik Hassan Nasrallah told supporters last Friday. "But there is a commitment from the sides not to discuss details in public so we don't face complications."

In January, Israel freed hundreds of Arab prisoners in exchange for an Israeli businessman kidnapped by Hezbollah and the bodies of three Israeli soldiers killed along the Lebanon border.

A second stage of the swap, in which Israel hopes to recover long-missing airman Ron Arad, has been stalled for months.

Israel and the Germans who have been mediating the talks have been silent on developments.

### Boycott brushed off

Israel shrugged off a boycott threat by a group of developing nations. "It is a regrettable decision, but unlikely to be implemented," an Israeli official said Sunday regarding the Non-Aligned Movement's call last week for its 115 member nations to ban visits by Israelis who live in the West Bank or Gaza Strip.

Although it is the world's largest coalition of nations, the movement has limited economic pull because most of its members are from the developing world.

But at least one member, India, is of great importance to Jerusalem, being one of the biggest customers for Israeli defense exports.

"India cannot maintain its excellent relations with Israel for long if this momentum continues," former Israeli diplomat Alon Liel told Army Radio. "This is a serious blow for us that reflects international frustration with Israel's conduct."

### Palestinian hunger strikers double

Almost 3,000 Palestinians held in Israeli jails are on hunger strike, nearly twice the original number.

A week into the protest launched to demand better conditions, the number of participating inmates has gone from 1,500 to 2,900, Israel's Prisons Service said Sunday.

But it said the liquids-only fast at 10 of its facilities was not being consistently observed, and that at least 40 prisoners had broken their hunger strike.

Israeli officials refuse to negotiate with the prisoners, accusing them of trying to secure more family visits and public telephones in order to communicate with Palestinian terrorist groups on the outside.