

**IN THE NEWS**
**Toll in Sinai reaches 33 dead**

Thirteen Israelis are among the 33 dead in the Sinai resort bombings.

Forensic specialists on Sunday identified the last of the Israeli victims of the coordinated Oct. 7 attacks. Six Egyptians and several European tourists were also among those killed in the bombings at Taba and Ras Satan. [Stories, Pages 1,3]

**Kerry, Bush condemn attacks**

President Bush and John Kerry expressed their condolences to Israel and Egypt over bomb attacks that killed 33 people, some of them Israeli tourists.

"I express condolences to all who lost loved ones and to the people of Egypt and of Israel," Bush said in a statement issued last Friday by the White House.

"I commend the cooperation between Israel and Egypt to help the victims and their families.

"The United States stands ready to provide assistance to the government of Egypt as it brings the perpetrators of these acts to justice."

Kerry, the Massachusetts senator and Democratic nominee for president, said the attacks "only strengthen our resolve to wage the war on terror relentlessly with a single-minded determination: to capture or kill the terrorists and crush their movements."

**Friendly-fire victim among dead in Gaza**

Ten Palestinians, including a farmer accidentally shot by terrorists, died in the Gaza Strip as an Israeli sweep continued.

At least eight of those killed over the weekend were armed Palestinians targeted by Israeli forces that stormed Gaza last month to stop rocket launches across the border.

A Palestinian farmer working at the Gush Katif settlement bloc was also killed by a Palestinian sniper after apparently being mistaken for an Israeli.

# WORLD REPORT

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## With bombings, Sinai goes from Garden of Eden to Paradise Lost

By DINA KRAFT

**T**EL AVIV (JTA) — Diving coral reefs, lounging on colorful pillows by the sea, taking in views of rose-colored mountains, ordering plates stacked high with honey-drenched banana pancakes — Israelis have long made Sinai a favorite vacation destination.

But the coordinated bombings on Oct. 7 targeting Israeli holiday makers transformed the getaway spot Israelis longingly refer to as the Garden of Eden into a Paradise Lost, forever tarnished by the blood, mayhem, confusion and fear borne of the deadly attacks.

Thirty-three people were killed and 120 wounded in the attacks on Taba and Ras Satan, resorts on the Sinai coast. Among them were 13 Israelis, including a mother and her two young children. Six Egyptians and several European tourists were also among the fatalities.

Officials said that at Taba, a town close to the Israeli border, a suicide car bomber blew off a wing of the Hilton Hotel. Some 30 miles to the south, two car bombs were detonated at the Ras Satan site, popular for backpackers.

Thousands of Israelis had made their way across the border to Egypt for Sukkot despite warnings by security officials of terrorism threats in Sinai. After earlier, repeated terror alerts for Sinai had amounted to naught — and convinced that staying home in Israel they were also terrorism targets — many Israelis say they became immune to the warnings.

"Sinai for me meant a certain escape from urban Israel," said Eitan Einwohner, 33, founder and CEO of a software company

in Tel Aviv. "There is no" concept of "time in the desert and when you see the red mountains and see the scenery, intense in its minimalism, it reduces everything to the simplest."

It was not just rank and file Israelis who were lured to Sinai by the scenery, tranquility and affordable prices. Some high-ranking former and current government officials also ignored the travel warnings and made their vacations there.

Among them were, reportedly, reserve Maj. Gen. Ilan Biran, the former director general of the Foreign Ministry, and several Knesset members. Ha'aretz reported that Liat Cahanim, the deputy legal counsel to the National Security Council, was wounded in the attack.

Two vacationing U.S. Embassy officials were also reportedly lightly wounded in the attack.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES**

In the bombings' aftermath, there was heartache and frustration in Israel that the security warnings were ignored. Parts of the media, and some members of the government, had even scoffed at the alerts.

A fiery debate has arisen over whether or not a free country should let its people disregard such warnings or if more drastic measures — such as closing off the border — should be taken. At an emergency Cabinet meeting it was suggested that Israel consider adopting a U.S.-style system of color-coded warning levels.

Avi Dichter, the director of Israel's Shin Bet, toured the blown-out remains of what was once the lobby of the Taba Hilton and had harsh words for those at the official

*Continued on page 2*

## ■ Bomb attacks shatter restful haven for Israelis in Sinai

*Continued from page 1*

level who did not take the warning more seriously.

"To my dismay, there were officials who treated the warnings lightly and leveled criticism at us" in the security community, he was quoted as saying in the Ma'ariv daily newspaper. "There is no doubt that this influenced the public which in turn did not take the warning seriously."

David Aramin, from Herzliya, a 35-year-old who works in the high-tech sector, visited Sinai as often as he could. In the last two months alone he was there six times.

On Oct. 7, he and friends were lounging at their camp when they heard the blasts on nearby Ras Satan beach and saw a ball of fire burst into the night sky.

Hysteria ensued, Aramin said, adding that some people followed the Bedouins toward the mountains, others rushed for the sea.

He said Israelis were just recently starting to come back to Sinai after staying away during most of the intifada. The relaxed atmosphere helped people forget any potential dangers, he said.

Ha'aretz columnist Gideon Levy tried to capture the special magic of the Sinai experience in an article Sunday headlined "Goodbye Sinai."

"For a growing number of Israelis, a vacation in Sinai was a singular experience that had no substitute. Something happened to Israelis when they entered Sinai," he wrote. "For the veterans of the place, being in Sinai was much more than a holiday. It was the only place of refuge, a haven from day-to-day troubles, from the terror that is all around us, and an escape from Israelis and from Israeli-ness, too. Something in the atmosphere of the place created a sense of relaxation that couldn't be found elsewhere."

It was also a rare example of interaction between Bedouins and Israelis, a place where friendships and connections were forged.

Some 30,000 Israelis went to Sinai over the recent holidays.

Some of them did not return to Israel after the attacks, insisting they would not let terrorism scare them away from living their lives.

"You would go and you would not think too much about warnings because it is not any less scary being in Israel," Aramin said. "Recently, especially, you did not pay attention to warnings because there are always warnings."

Einwohner, the software company CEO, who was also staying at a beach near Ras Satan, said Israelis had become complacent about the warnings.

"Looking back," he said, "I think most Israelis and I fell into this trap a little bit of saying, If there are 30,000 people doing it, how could it be that dangerous?"

Eran Reinisch, 37, who runs a financial services business in Tel Aviv, has been going to Sinai for vacations since he was a child. He has traveled the area up and down, diving its waters and exploring

its beaches. It is, he said, his favorite place to unwind. He describes it as "magic" and touts its "totally different atmosphere."

He again wanted to visit Sinai with his family this Sukkot holiday. But, concerned by the warnings, they, along with a group of other families traveling together, decided to go to Taba instead of staying further down the Sinai coast as they usually do.

Taba, they told themselves, would be safer. After all, they thought, it was so close to the Israeli border.

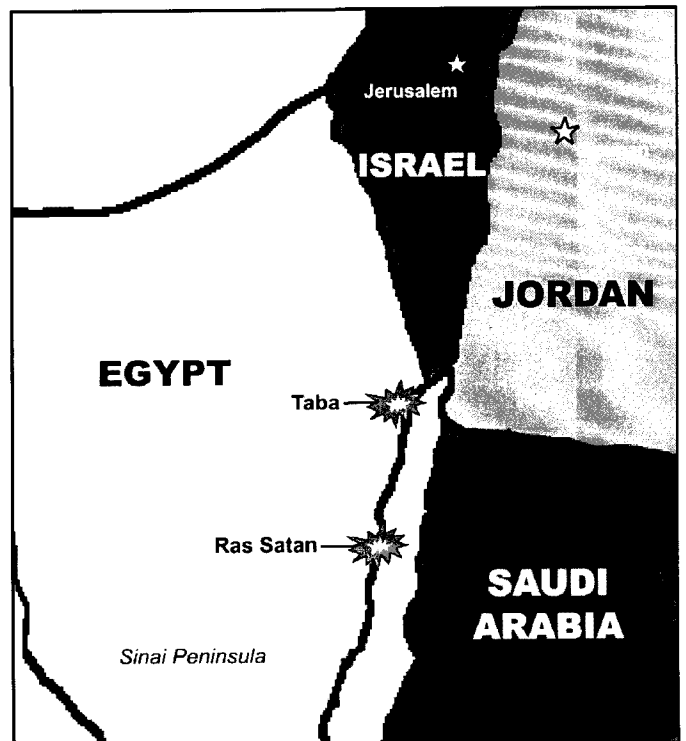
When the blast shook the entire hotel, he and his friends were eating at an Italian restaurant on the beach.

Reinisch immediately realized that the explosion was a terror attack and raced to the children's disco one flight down from the hotel's lobby where he had dropped off his 7-year-old son, Roy.

He quickly found the child, covered in a layer of blood and soot. His head had been lightly injured by falling debris.

Reinisch scooped Roy into his arms and was among the first to cross the border for the hospital in Eilat. A large photograph of Roy, his head bandaged and T-shirt and shorts stained with blood, made the front pages of the Yediot Achro-not daily newspaper.

"I was supposed to go diving next month in Sinai and now I will not. Clearly I have no desire to go," Reinisch said. ■



JTA graphic by Melissa Wong

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**THIS WEEK****MONDAY**

■ Representatives from the Republican Jewish Coalition and the National Jewish Democratic Council will participate in a presidential surrogate debate at the Panim Jewish Teen Leadership Summit in Washington. The summit, sponsored by the Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values, brings together 60 leaders from major Jewish youth groups to discuss Israel advocacy and issues of Jewish identity.

■ The announcement of a \$45 million grant for Boston-area Jewish day schools is the highlight of a series of meetings in Boston of the Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education. Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.) will speak Monday evening at the conference.

■ Groundbreaking will be held in Terre Haute, Ind., on the new site of the CANDLES Holocaust museum, which was struck by arson last year.

**WEDNESDAY**

■ President Bush and Democratic challenger Sen. John Kerry will meet for their third and final debate. The forum, in Tempe, Ariz., will focus on domestic policy issues. Jewish advocates will be watching to hear more detailed explanations of the candidates' views on faith-based initiatives and other church-state issues.

**THURSDAY**

■ Duke University Hillel stages an anti-terrorism conference in advance of a conference of the Palestine Solidarity Movement, scheduled for Oct. 15 - Oct. 17. At the antiterror event a concert will be held, to be telecast by Hollywood.com.

**FRIDAY**

■ Some 100 college activists are launching a new progressive Jewish college network in Newark. The Union of Progressive Zionists will offer a "third way" for students not attracted to pro-Palestinian and pro-Israeli groups.

**SUNDAY**

■ The United Jewish Communities' Lion of Judah conference begins in Washington. It is headlined by the first lady, Laura Bush; Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry's wife, Teresa Heinz Kerry, and others.

■ A young leadership delegation from the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society arrives in Washington for training sessions on advocating for immigrants and to lobby on immigrant issues on Capitol Hill.

■ The International Fellowship of Christians and Jews sponsors its annual International Day of Prayer and Solidarity with Israel. Last year's event mobilized more than 5 million pro-Israel Christians.

■ The Jewish National Fund will launch Blueprint for the Negev: The Vision for 21st Century Israel at its National Leadership Conference in Los Angeles.

# In Sinai, eyes on Al-Qaida

By DAN BARON

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The dust may have settled on Sinai's bombed-out beaches, but Israelis now have to come to terms with Al-Qaida's apparent arrival on their very doorstep.

Rescue efforts at Taba and Ras Satan were called off Sunday.

Israeli extraction teams that had labored around the clock at the resorts since the Oct. 7 blasts went home, and Egyptian investigators hunted for tracks of the terrorists who had struck so ruthlessly.

For the family members of 33 vacationers slain in the coordinated car-bombings, all that remained was to mourn and ponder how a Sukkot trip to the Red Sea could have gone so tragically wrong.

"A guy goes with his girlfriend to travel in Sinai for the High Holidays and comes back in a box," Reuven Avisaf said at the funeral of his son Roy, 27, one of three Israeli backpackers killed by a double blast at Ras Satan. "It is simply inconceivable."

Ten other Israelis died at the Taba Hilton, which lost an entire wing when a truck loaded with 450 pounds of TNT rammed into the lobby. Six Egyptians and several Europeans were also killed in the attacks.

Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom said the synchronicity and carnage were likely the signatures of Osama bin Laden's terrorist network.

"This was intended to be a mega-attack that was supposed to topple the entire hotel and kill hundreds of people," Shalom told Channel Two television Saturday. This sort of attack, he added, "is usually carried out by a certain organization called Al-Qaida."

Egypt, which allowed in Israeli emergency teams and vowed to tighten counterterrorist ties with Jerusalem, balked at this notion.

Mindful of Israel's ongoing military sweep of the Gaza Strip, some unnamed officials in Cairo suggested the Sinai attacks could have been specifically pro-

Palestinian locals, rather than the work of international terrorists.

Some 30 Bedouins who work in and around Taba and Ras Satan had been brought in for questioning following the attacks, Egyptian security sources said.

Yet according to CNN, some in the Egyptian government believe the terrorists — eight to 10 in number — may have reached Sinai by boat from Jordan or Saudi Arabia and obtained their explosives from local Bedouins.

Among the dead were Oleg and Ludmilla Paizkov, who were spending their first romantic getaway at the luxury hotel since immigrating to Israel from the former Soviet Union. The attack orphaned their two sons, aged three and eight.

Tzila Niv died along with her two sons, Gilad, 11, and Lior, 3. They are survived by their husband and father, Zohar.

Eleven-year-old Khalil Zeituni, who lost his father to a car accident, was at the Hilton with his uncle. The boy died along with another Israeli Arab, Hafez Khafi.

Fate was even crueller for Asaf Greenvald, who stopped at the Hilton merely to use the restroom en route back to the nearby Israeli border.

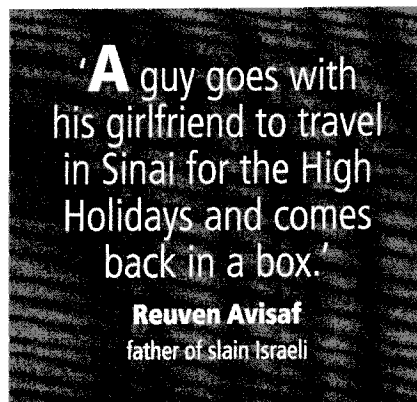
"I would like to stress once more that although the attacks occurred in Egypt and struck a blow against it, they were directed against citizens of the state of Israel," Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told his Cabinet, adding his thanks for Cairo's cooperation in the aftermath of the attacks.

On Saturday, Shin Bet chief Avi Dichter met Egyptian counterparts at Taba.

Even after the attack, thousands of Israelis remained on Sinai's beaches.

"It is inconceivable that our intelligence services should be working so hard for a few thousand Israelis who choose to spend their vacation in Sinai despite the warnings," said Welfare Minister Zevulun Orlev, who suggested that citizens who knowingly flout government terror warnings forfeit any national insurance benefits should they fall victim to attacks.

(JTA correspondent Dina Kraft in Tel Aviv contributed to this report.)



# NEWS IN BRIEF

## NORTH AMERICA

### Money for Boston day schools

Jewish day schools in Boston are receiving a \$45 million gift. The donors, local families who are making the gift anonymously, will give \$10 million to each of the three largest Jewish schools in the Boston area: the Maimonides School in Brookline, the Rashi School in Newton and the Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Boston, also in Newton.

Maimonides is a modern Orthodox school, Rashi is affiliated with the Reform movement and Schechter with the Conservative movement.

Together they educate about 55 percent of the 2,800 youngsters who currently attend the 14 Jewish day schools in Greater Boston, the Boston Globe reported.

The remaining \$15 million will be used to assist all the day schools in the region.

Boston's Jewish federation, the Combined Jewish Philanthropies, is receiving the \$45 million and will oversee its distribution over the next five years.

### Bush: Ignoring Arafat was 'unpopular'

President Bush cited his isolation of Yasser Arafat as a decision that he made that was not popular.

Bush listed his "unpopular" decisions in the second presidential debate last Friday night as evidence of his willingness to lead against the tide.

"You know, I've made some decisions on Israel that are unpopular. I wouldn't deal with Arafat," he said, because the Palestinian leader would not reject terrorism.

"People in Europe didn't like that decision. And that was unpopular, but it was the right thing to do."

## MIDDLE EAST

### Sharon blasts Palestinian rhetoric

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon linked Palestinian incitement to the Red Sea resort bombings.

"I would like to stress once more that although the attacks occurred in Egypt and struck a blow against it, they were directed against citizens of the State of Israel.

Against the backdrop of the fiery comments by the Palestinian leadership, this issue becomes even more acute," Sharon told his Cabinet on Sunday.

The prime minister also voiced gratitude for Cairo's handling of the Oct. 7 attacks on the Taba and Ras Satan resorts.

"I want to thank President Mubarak and the Egyptian government again for the close cooperation," he said.

Sharon and the Egyptian president talked by phone after the attacks. On Saturday, Shin Bet chief Avi Dichter met Egyptian counterparts at Taba, one of the Red Sea resorts targeted.

### Israel gets train-to-plane service

Israel's Ben-Gurion Airport is now accessible by train.

The 10-minute service running twice an hour to and from Tel Aviv central station began Sunday.

The train docks at the new Ben-Gurion 2000 terminal, with free shuttles to the old terminal.

To allow passengers from outside Tel Aviv to make use of the new service, the Israel Railways Authority is introducing all-night trains from outlying towns to Tel Aviv.

The Tel Aviv to Ben-Gurion train is free of charge until Nov. 1, when a charge of 12 shekels, less than \$3, will be levied per trip.

### S. Korea, Israel in military deal

South Korea will purchase an Israeli-made combat flight training system in a deal worth some \$1.5 million.

The money will go for Israel's purchase of new F-15K fighter jets being built by Boeing, the Jerusalem Post reported.

The Rosh Ha'ayin-based BVR Systems announced Sunday that the contract it signed with Boeing was for their package called Ehud.

### Motorola Israel helps with U.S. mail

Motorola Israel won a \$300 million contract with the U.S. Postal Service.

The Motorola Israel devices included in the contract will allow the Postal Service to electronically scan and track mail items en route to their destinations, Ha'aretz reported.

## WORLD

### British leader says thanks for rescue

British opposition leader Michael Howard paid tribute to Britain for saving his family from Nazi-era Europe.

In his keynote speech at his party's annual conference Oct. 5, the Conservative leader described the debt he felt he owed Britain for providing him with a safe refuge.

"My grandmother was one of those killed in the concentration camps," Howard told delegates in an emotional speech.

"If it hadn't been for Winston Churchill, and if it hadn't been for Britain, I would have been one of them too. That's why when I say I owe everything I am to this country, I mean it."

Howard's Romania-born father arrived in Britain in 1939.

Howard — a former home secretary under Prime Minister John Major — who became party leader in October 2003, also pointed to his immigrant background as an inspiration for his political career, adding: "Put simply, I want to give Britain just a tiny bit back in return for what Britain has given to me."

### Brazil cries for Argentina

A petition from Brazilian Jews calling for the reopening of a Jewish center bombing case was delivered to the Argentine government.

The petition, claiming to speak on behalf of Brazil's 120,000 Jews, was delivered last week.

"This petition is nothing more than a claim for justice, not only for the Jewish community but for all the Argentine people, of which Jews are inseparable.

Impunity generates more bombings.

We demand the immediate revision of the case," read the document.

In early September, an Argentine court acquitted suspects accused of being local accomplices to the international terrorists who carried out the attack that killed 85 and injured some 300 people at the AMIA center in Buenos Aires in 1994.

### European backs barrier

A senior European diplomat said Israel's security barrier had prevented terrorist attacks.

In an interview published last Friday in the German edition of the Financial Times, Marc Otte, the European Union's Middle East envoy, said that the barrier had "drastically" decreased the number of attacks.

"Before, one could just cross over," he said.

All 25 E.U. member-countries recently backed a United Nations resolution condemning Israel's construction of its West Bank security barrier.