

## IN THE NEWS

**Gaza sweep bites deeper**

Israel stepped up its sweep for Palestinians shooting rockets into Israel from the Gaza Strip.

Israeli forces entered the Gaza town of Beit Lahiya on Wednesday, killing three Palestinian terrorists and wounding two others in clashes.

It was the first time the tanks and troops that rolled into northern Gaza on Sept. 30 had targeted Beit Lahiya.

**Bombers survived attacks on Sinai?**

The terrorists who bombed two Red Sea resorts frequented by Israelis last week reportedly got away.

The four bombers, their identities still unknown, parked three explosive-laden cars at Taba and Ras Satan and left before they were detonated, the Egyptian newspaper Al-Ahram said Wednesday.

The account clashed with that of Israeli officials, who said that the Oct. 7 blast that sheared a wing off Taba's Hilton Hotel was a suicide bombing.

**Aliyah could drop to a two-decade low**

Immigration to Israel likely will hit a 20-year low in 2004.

Only some 20,000 people are expected to make aliyah this year, though the number of youth visiting Israel has surpassed pre-intifada levels, according to the Jewish Agency for Israel.

Immigration from France and Eastern Europe showed the largest percentage increases: In the first nine months of 2004, French immigration jumped by 18 percent to 1,904, while Eastern European immigration rose 44 percent to 238.

North American immigration could reach 2,700 in 2004, up from 2,400 in 2003. Arrivals from South America dropped by 76 percent, with only 959 immigrating by September.

Only 10,500 immigrants are expected from the former Soviet Union, compared with more than 12,000 last year.



# WORLD REPORT

PUBLISHED WEEKDAYS BY JTA—THE GLOBAL NEWS SERVICE OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE · WWW.JTA.ORG

## After Sinai attacks, an opening for Israeli-Egyptian cooperation

By LESLIE SUSSER

**J**ERUSALEM (JTA) — The coordinated terrorist attacks on Israeli tourists in Sinai may have some significant, unintended consequences: a deepening of anti-terrorism cooperation between Israel and Egypt and greater Egyptian readiness to guarantee security in the Gaza Strip after Israel's planned withdrawal next summer.

At first glance, the Oct. 7 attacks were a blow to Middle Eastern rapprochement. It could take years before Israeli tourism to Sinai — one of the few signs of people-to-people normalcy in Israel's relations with the Arab world — returns to anything like the dimensions of this holiday season.

There was a symbolic blow to peace too: Israeli reporters recalled that the Hilton Taba hotel, targeted by the terrorists, had hosted hundreds of hours of peace talks over the years between Israelis and Egyptians and Israelis and Palestinians.

With one wing of the hotel reduced to rubble, one reporter said the shattered building suggested a scarred monument to failed visions of peace. But some noted another image: Israeli and Egyptian rescue workers sifting through rubble together.

Behind the scenes, top Israeli and Egyptian officials discussed intelligence and other cooperation against the common threat of Islamic terrorism. Avi Dichter, head of Israel's Shin Bet security service, visited the site of the Hilton attack and met with Egyptian counterparts.

Soon afterward, Israeli field agents were allowed to scour the scenes of the Sinai bombings for evidence. They worked closely

with Egyptian security agents and were given information from Egyptian interrogations of suspects and eyewitnesses.

This constituted cooperation of an unprecedented nature for Egyptian authorities, who have been wary of cooperating with security agents of what many Egyptians still consider the "Zionist enemy."

According to initial Israeli intelligence estimates, the three coordinated bombings, one on the Hilton Taba and two at the Sinai resort of Ras Satan, were carried out by "Global Jihad," a network of radical Islamic groups directed by Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaida organization.

Though Israeli tourists were targeted, some Israeli counterterrorism experts believe the attackers' primary goal was to destabilize the Egyptian regime.

"Global Jihad's main aim is to topple moderate Arab and Muslim regimes, like that in Egypt, and bring like-minded Islamic radicals to power," said Boaz Ganor of the Herzliya Interdisciplinary Center.

The attacks were designed mainly to hit Egypt's tourism industry, weaken the economy and destabilize the regime, Ganor said. If that's indeed the case, Egypt has an obvious interest in cooperating with all intelligence services, including Israel's, that can supply advance warning of planned attacks and help target would-be perpetrators.

For most of the 25 years that Egypt and Israel have been nominally at peace, such cooperation would have been unthinkable. A former Egyptian foreign minister, Boutros Boutros Ghali, coined the term "cold peace"

*Continued on page 2*

NEWS ANALYSIS

## ■ Attacks in Sinai could improve anti-terrorism ties between Israel and Egypt

*Continued from page 1*

to describe how Egypt had resisted normalizing relations even after signing a peace treaty.

Still, despite strong Egyptian criticism of Israel's handling of the Palestinian intifada, ties had been warming for several months before the Sinai attacks. The most significant upgrading came in late May, when President Hosni Mubarak affirmed Egypt's readiness to help keep the peace in Gaza after Israel's planned withdrawal.

Mubarak agreed to beef up Egyptian forces to patrol the border between Egypt and the Gaza Strip, prevent the smuggling of weapons from Sinai into Gaza and send Egyptian instructors to train Palestinian Authority security forces.

Since then, the Egyptians have been trying to mediate a cease-fire involving all Palestinian organizations, including radical groups such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

In late May, Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon agreed to set up political, security and economic committees to upgrade all aspects of the countries' bilateral relationship. The move coincided with the conclusion of the biggest deal ever between the two countries: a contract worth \$2.5 billion for Egypt to supply Israel with natural gas for 15 years, beginning in 2006.

Israeli analysts attribute the change in Egypt's attitude to Sharon's plan to disengage from the Palestinians. They say the Egyptians are motivated by fear that after Israel's withdrawal, Hamas will seize control of the Gaza Strip and make it a hotbed of Islamic fundamentalism that

could spill over into Egypt.

Now, after the Sinai bombings, Egypt has far more reason for concern. There is a palpable danger that Global Jihad would see a Hamas-controlled Gaza as a golden opportunity to establish a land base against Cairo. That gives Egypt added incentive to cooperate with Israel.

Giora Eiland, head of Israel's national security council, summed up Israeli expectations: In the past, he said, the Egyptians had been lax about cracking down on criminal activities and weapons smuggling in Sinai, and had allowed "hostile elements" to get too close to the border with Israel.

Eiland said he hoped the Egyptians now would clamp down as strongly as

they did against radical Islamic groups in Egypt in the 1990s.

But it won't all be clear sailing. Egypt still sees itself as competing with Israel for regional hegemony, a perception that may lead Cairo to continue its efforts to compel Israel to give up its nuclear capability. And the sharp, often vitriolic, criticism of Israel's response to Palestinian violence will almost certainly continue, at least in the press and on the Egyptian street.

Eventually, ties between Cairo and Jerusalem could mirror those Israel has with Jordan and Turkey — where, despite abiding popular hostility toward Israel, the regimes work closely at the highest strategic levels. ■

*(Leslie Susser is the diplomatic correspondent for the Jerusalem Report.)*



**Egypt fears that Hamas will make Gaza a hotbed of Islamic fundamentalism once Israel withdraws.**

## Bombed Istanbul synagogue reopens, heartening Turkey's vulnerable Jews

By YIGAL SCHLEIFER

ISTANBUL (JTA) — Almost a year after it was struck by a suicide truck bomb, Istanbul's central synagogue officially reopened this week, with a ceremony that was both a solemn remembrance of the attack and a celebration of the building's new life.

Speaking to the crowd seated under the synagogue's stately dome, Silvyo Ovadya, the Turkish Jewish community's president, said Monday that the nearly simultaneous attacks against Neve Shalom and a second synagogue only a few miles away had a dual purpose.

"No doubt the initial purpose of these bombings was killing our people and inflicting pain on us and world Jewry," he said. Six members of Turkey's Jewish community died in the attacks.

But the bombings were also an attempt to "damage the peaceful social fabric of the Turkish society and to upset and derail Turkey, a country with a Muslim population, a secular democratic state that has continued to develop its relations with the

United States and aims to be part of the European Union," Ovadya said. ■

Last November's attack destroyed the Neve Shalom synagogue's entrance, leaving it a pile of rubble. And though the synagogue's sanctuary was largely spared any damage, the building — located in Istanbul's historic Galata neighborhood, where most of the city's Jews once lived — required extensive rebuilding and reinforcing.

The closing of Neve Shalom, the spiritual heart of the community, in the attack's aftermath meant Istanbul's Jews had to go for the last 10 months without a venue large enough to hold weddings, Bar Mitzvahs and other events.

Members of Turkey's Jewish community, which numbers some 25,000, said the synagogue's reopening was an important milestone.

"After something sad, we need to celebrate. It's like a Purim, after they tried to kill us, we are still alive. The synagogue looks a lot more beautiful now," said Izel Ciprut, a 28-year-old cotton trader. ■

**JTA**  
WORLD  
REPORT

**Howard E. Friedman**

President

**Mark J. Joffe**

Executive Editor and Publisher

**Lisa Hostein**

Editor

**Michael S. Arnold**

Managing Editor

**Lenore A. Silverstein**

Finance and Administration Director

JTA WORLD REPORT is published five days a week, except holidays, by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Inc., 330 Seventh Ave., New York, N.Y. 10001-5010. For more 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).  
© JTA. Reproduction only with permission.

# Record \$45 million day-school gift in Boston

By **URIEL HEILMAN**

NEW YORK (JTA) — Jewish educators hope one of the largest gifts ever for Jewish education in America will prompt other philanthropists to follow suit.

The \$45 million donation from a group of anonymous families is intended to improve Jewish day school education in Boston. The money will be spent over five years, with \$30 million divided equally among three schools and the remaining \$15 million designated for a tuition scholarship fund and grants for innovative educational projects.

Jewish community professionals hailed the move, announced Monday, as a historic investment. Jewish educators say they hope other philanthropists will now step up to transform day school education across the country.

"We've been dreaming about days like this," Barry Shrage, president of the Combined Jewish Philanthropies, said at a news conference Monday in Boston. "The grant truly represents a change in the way the American Jewish community understands education."

The pledge, called CJP's Peerless Excellence Project, was announced at the annual conference of the Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education, held in Boston from Sunday through Tuesday.

The gift's primary beneficiaries will be the Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Boston, The Rashi School and Maimonides School. They are the Boston area's three largest Jewish day schools, representing the Conservative, Reform and Orthodox movements, respectively.

"It's not merely a gift; it's an investment," said Lisa Rosenbaum, a member of Maimonides' executive committee. "We're being goaded to think bigger."

Maimonides, the oldest and largest of Boston's Jewish day schools, with approximately 625 students, is in the process of coming up with a plan to spend its \$10 million — an amount equal to the school's annual budget.

The executive director of the Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education, Rabbi Joshua Elkin, said the \$10 million grants constituted the largest-ever gifts for operational use in day-school education. The \$45 million total dwarfed even capital gifts and day-school endowments, he said.

"There's been nothing quite at this

level," Elkin said. "It breaks the glass ceiling of how much it is possible to invest in a day school."

"It presents an unprecedented opportunity that I believe will be something that encourages other communities and other donors to think about ways to invest in their day schools," he added.

The money comes with some strings attached: Funds are not to be spent on capital improvements, and the goal is to use the money to institute permanent improvements at the schools, not merely give them a five-year boost, according to Gil Preuss, director of the Excellence Project.

"We've challenged the schools to think carefully about their vision and come up with a plan for implementing it," Preuss said.

"The idea is not just to have excellent schools for five years, but to shift the line" and improve the schools permanently, he said. "This is really a vision for what the Jewish community can be around the country."

Yossi Prager, North American executive director of the Avi Chai, one of the Jewish foundation world's biggest charities, said the schools' challenge will be to build a system that will use the money effectively but also can survive once the funding period is over.

"Either they've got to build in an effective fund-raising program or find ways of creating programming that's sustainable beyond the term of the funding," he said.

Avi Chai has spent tens of millions of dollars on grants to Jewish day schools. It also operates an interest-free loan program for capital improvements at day schools that has doled out approximately \$56 million over the past five years.

Prager said the \$45 million gift should serve as a model not only for investment in day-school operations but because of the role Boston's federation, CJP, played in brokering the deal.

"The role of the federation was not as a giver but as an ally or advocate for day schools," Prager noted. "That should be a comfortable role for day-school education."

There are 14 Jewish day schools in the

Boston area, serving a total of 2,600 students, 1,400 of them at the three schools slated to receive the gifts.

Day-school enrollment in Boston has risen significantly in recent years together with the opening of several new schools. The area's schools now have excess capacity.

One of the areas not addressed by the \$45 million gift is teachers' salaries, which

educators say still fall short of the level needed to recruit and retain good teachers. None of the \$15 million portion of the gift will go toward teachers' salaries, though Peerless Excellence officials did not say whether or not the three primary beneficiaries would be able to include requests for salary raises

in their \$10 million spending plans.

The decision by the anonymous families to make the \$45 million donation to day-school education — an amount rare even for gifts to universities and museums — came in a "magic moment," CJP's Shrage said.

Deliberations about a substantial gift for day-school education had been under way for about five years, Shrage said, but it wasn't until one family decided to triple its intended pledge that the project suddenly reached record proportions.

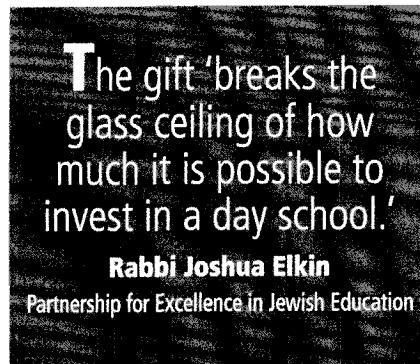
Officials would not say how many families were involved, only that they were local.

"The prerequisite is a couple of passionate donors who believe they can change the world," Shrage said. "We expect that many more donors will begin to see the schools as a positive place to make an investment."

Philanthropist Michael Steinhardt, the real-estate magnate behind countless "Jewish renaissance" projects, such as birthright Israel, called the Boston gift a "bright and shining example" for what should be happening around the country in Jewish education.

"We must do a much better job than we're doing today," he said, noting that the vast majority of Jewish parents still do not send their children to Jewish day schools.

About 91 percent of Orthodox children go to day schools or yeshivas, but less than 20 percent of Conservative children and 4 percent of Reform children go to day schools, according to the National Jewish Population Survey 2000-01.



# NEWS IN BRIEF

## NORTH AMERICA

### Poll: Evangelicals love Israel

Support for Israel is driving the evangelical Christian vote in the upcoming U.S. presidential election, a poll says.

Ninety-five percent of 1,875 likely evangelical voters surveyed said support for Israel was the most important or an important factor in deciding which candidate to support Nov. 2.

Of those surveyed, 98 percent said they would vote for President Bush.

The poll was conducted Sept. 27-Oct. 4 for the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews.

### Group pleased with resident decision

The U.S. Senate approved permanent-resident status for the family of a slain Pakistani immigrant whose cause was taken up by Jewish groups.

The Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society and others lobbied for the family of Waqar Hasan, who was killed in a post-Sept. 11 hate crime.

"HIAS and the Jewish community responded with energy and compassion to the plight of the Hasan family because of our community's experience as victims of ethnically motivated violence," said the president of HIAS, Leonard Glickman.

### Terror suspect threatened Jewish sites

An Iraqi man arrested in Tennessee threatened Jewish institutions, local officials said.

Ahmed Al-Uqaily was arrested last week by U.S. anti-terrorist agents after paying an agent \$1,000 for hand grenades, disassembled machine guns and ammunition.

Jewish institutions in Nashville have stepped up security in light of the incident.

### Student sues Canadian university

A pro-Palestinian Jewish student is suing a Canadian university for temporarily suspending him for participating in unauthorized campus protests.

Daniel Freeman-Maloy is suing York University for hundreds of thousands of dollars for suspending him for three years for what university officials called flagrant disruption of campus life and unauthorized use of a bullhorn in contravention of university policy.

The suspension later was lifted.

Freeman-Maloy accused the university's president, Lorna Marsden, of suspending him from classes and barring him from campus without allowing him a proper opportunity to respond.

In a statement, the school said it had acted in good faith and would defend its actions.

### Running for Israel

A New York rabbi is trying to raise money for pro-Israel groups by running in the New York City Marathon on Nov. 7.

Eric Ertel hopes to raise at least \$1 million.

More information is available at [www.runningforisrael.com](http://www.runningforisrael.com).

## MIDDLE EAST

### Ethiopian Israeli grads meet

Some 2,200 Ethiopian Israelis who graduated from Israeli universities held a reunion.

The reunion, held Wednesday at Kibbutz Nezer Sereni, brought together students who attended college with the sponsorship of the North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry and the Vidal Sassoon Foundation.

"This is a most remarkable accomplishment for the Ethiopian Israeli community, which has overcome so many obstacles in less than a generation," NACOEJ said in a statement.

### Beersheba bomb mastermind busted

Israeli forces captured a top Hamas fugitive in the West Bank. Imad Kawasme, who orchestrated the Aug. 31 double suicide bombing in Beersheba, surrendered to troops who encircled his Hebron hideout Wednesday. He is considered the top Palestinian terrorist in the West Bank city.

"This is a mass murderer who has the blood of many Israelis on his hands," Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz said. "I hope this arrest will reduce the number of terrorist attacks emanating from Hebron."

### Anti-rocket radar works

An Israeli town's early-warning radar scored a first victory against Palestinian rockets.

The Ma'anim system installed in Sderot sounded a 20-second alert before two Kassam rockets fired by Palestinians in the nearby Gaza Strip struck Wednesday.

The Kassams landed harmlessly in an open field, but security chiefs hailed the incident as a successful test for the Ma'anim, which was unveiled Tuesday.

### Israelis divided on abortion

Almost half of Israelis oppose abortion. According to a poll published by the New Family lobby this week, 48 percent of Israelis would not consider terminating a pregnancy even if the fetus were found to have a serious defect, while 32 percent said such circumstances would warrant an abortion.

Another 10 percent cited economic hardship as a valid reason to terminate a pregnancy.

New Family, which campaigns for more liberal life-cycle laws in Israel, said more women than men in Israel support abortion.

### Sukkot with soldiers

Hundreds of tourists and Israelis celebrated Sukkot with Israeli soldiers. The visitors brought gifts to the soldiers last week.

The Orthodox Union sponsored the program, which brought participants to four Israeli army bases.

## WORLD

### Serbia vows to condemn anti-Semitism

Serbia's president signed a World Jewish Congress petition against anti-Semitism.

Serbia's prime minister and president signed the document Tuesday in a meeting in Serbia with WJC leaders.

Also discussed was the possibility of establishing a commission to deal with restitution of communal and private Jewish property seized by the Nazis and Communists.

### From Russia with love

Russia is a safe place for Jews, the country's chief rabbi said.

"Russia has become one of the safest places for Jews in Europe. Unlike most of the continent, the number of anti-Semitic manifestations is definitely going down," Chief Rabbi Berel Lazar said Wednesday to Israeli President Moshe Katsav, who was visiting Moscow.

The Russian Jewish community is building dozens of new synagogues, Jewish schools, kindergartens and communal centers, Lazar's spokesman said.