



## IN THE NEWS

## Waxman: Investigate anti-Semitism charges

A Jewish lawmaker asked the U.S. Defense Department to investigate charges of anti-Semitism at the Guantanamo Bay military prison.

Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.) on Wednesday asked the Pentagon to investigate allegations that American interrogators made anti-Semitic remarks in order to drive a wedge between detainees and their attorneys.

Two detainees have complained that their interrogators told them their attorneys were Jewish, and warned them not to trust the lawyers, Waxman said in a letter to Defense Department Inspector General Joseph Schmitz.

## Sharon, Abbas to meet in June

Ariel Sharon and Mahmoud Abbas will meet June 21.

Aides to the Israeli prime minister and Palestinian Authority president on Wednesday announced the planned summit, the first since they met in the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh and agreed to a cease-fire in February.

Sharon is expected to press Abbas to crack down on Palestinian terrorist groups.

Abbas, in turn, is expected to demand that Israel withdraw from all of the West Bank as well as the Gaza Strip if it wants to give peace a real chance.

## Air force man now heads the IDF

Dan Halutz became Israel's military chief.

Halutz, a former air force commander, replaced Lt. Gen. Moshe Ya'alon as chief of the Israel Defense Forces' General Staff at a blue-ribbon ceremony Wednesday.

Considered a confidant of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, Halutz's immediate challenge is implementing the Israeli withdrawals from the Gaza Strip and northern West Bank.

# WORLD REPORT

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

## New IDF chief, known as big thinker, lays out plan for radical army reform

By LESLIE SUSSER

**J**ERUSALEM (JTA) — Dan Halutz, the former air force commander who has just taken over as the Israel Defense Forces' chief of staff, plans to introduce sweeping reforms that will upgrade Israeli capabilities against long-range strategic threats and urban terrorism.

Halutz, 57, the first air force man to head the IDF, intends to restructure the ground forces, create new commands and accelerate a process of modernization that has been taking place over the past decade. Some of Halutz's ideas are so far-reaching that senior officers are talking about an impending "revolution."

But Halutz's first order of business will be more mundane: to ensure that Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's planned withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and northern West Bank, scheduled for this summer, goes through smoothly.

The army, together with the police, will bear the brunt of a huge operation to stop withdrawal opponents from preventing the dismantling of settlements and the evacuation of recalcitrant settlers.

Halutz comes to the job after some controversy: Civil rights groups tried unsuccessfully to block his appointment because of statements they felt showed callousness toward the lives of Palestinian civilians.

Moreover, Halutz's predecessor, Lt. Gen. Moshe Ya'alon, was forced to step down a year earlier than expected, apparently for suggesting that the Gaza withdrawal might encourage more terrorism.

The circumstances of Ya'alon's dismiss-

al, and the fact that Halutz is one of several recently promoted generals known to have close ties to Sharon, have led some critics to voice concern over checks and balances in decision-making on crucial security issues.

Halutz impressed Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz, himself a former IDF chief of staff, with his ideas for change during talks over his appointment earlier this year.

Halutz earned a reputation for innovation as air force commander, introducing state-of-the-art F-16 fighter planes, Apache Longbow attack helicopters, unmanned attack drones and higher-grade satellite intelligence. He altered the sacrosanct pilots course, extending it from two

to three years and revising the curriculum.

As IDF boss, Halutz plans to do something no previous chief of staff has dared: extend the scope of the ground forces' command and delegate some of his own authority to the ground forces commander, putting him on a par with the commanders of the air force and navy.

He also is contemplating abolishing Central Command and leaving the ground forces with just two regional commands, north and south.

To focus on distant threats like a future Iranian nuclear bomb, Halutz plans to establish a new Strategic Command, and he wants to unify naval, air and ground commandos under a new special forces command to fight terrorism more efficiently.

Looking ahead to the future battlefield, Halutz is expected to opt for more technology, less tanks and less manpower, and to prioritize closer coordination between

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## ■ Israel's new army chief lays out his strategy

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air, naval and ground forces in joint operations.

Halutz was a member of Mofaz's "IDF 2000" modernization team and he intends to accelerate the technological revolution it began, which has proved as important for urban warfare as for ballistic missile exchanges.

Israeli military experts speak about the "age of the digital soldier," in which soldiers will have maps on their wrist watches, cameras that can see through walls and electronically directed munitions.

Some military insiders, however, are worried that Halutz might go too far. Ya'acov Amidror, a retired major general and former head of analysis in military intelligence, warns against further cuts in tank formations and abolishing Central Command.

"We are a small country that needs to think in terms of having to fight on the ground and on several fronts at the same time," he said. "Abolishing Central Command will reduce our flexibility in getting forces to the right front at the right time."

For the next few months, though, Halutz will have to focus on the withdrawal from Gaza and the northern West Bank. As deputy chief of staff, he drew up detailed plans to prevent withdrawal opponents from reaching areas designated for evacuation and to ensure that Palestinian terrorists don't fire on the evacuating forces.

If withdrawal is followed by a renewed outbreak of Palestinian violence, Halutz

will have to find military answers; but if it sparks a new peace process, his job will be to fashion closer security cooperation with Palestinian Authority forces.

At the height of the intifada, Halutz was at the center of controversy in July 2002 when, after 15 Palestinian civilians were killed during the assassination of Hamas leader Salah Shehadea in Gaza, Halutz said he still slept well at night and that all a pilot feels when releasing a one-ton bomb is a slight shake in the cockpit.

Halutz claimed afterward that he was not insensitive to Palestinian civilian life, and that what he meant was that the pilots were not deliberately trying to kill civilians.

The reshuffle in the IDF has left Sharon with friends or confidants in nearly all the top security and intelligence assessment jobs: Mossad spy chief Meir Dagan is a close family friend, as is Halutz; and both the new deputy chief of staff, Maj. Gen. Moshe Kaplinski, and Brig Gen. Gadi Izenkott, a front-runner to take over as military intelligence chief, are former military secretaries to Sharon.

It's not a question of "yes men", says Labor legislator Ephraim Sneh; none of the top people is afraid to speak his mind. Rather, he says, there's a danger of uniformity of thought among a group of like-minded men.

"They're all very good people with lots of integrity. But they are like-minded.

And like-minded thinking led to the Yom Kippur War," he warns.

One who thought differently was Ya'alon. His three-year term was not extended. The nominal reason was poor working relations with Mofaz, but there was widespread speculation that Ya'alon's comments that the Gaza withdrawal might provide a "tail wind for terror" may have been a contributing factor.

Ya'alon, 55, was chief of staff for most of the intifada, and it was during his watch that Israel seemed to gain the upper hand. Together with former Shin Bet security service chief Avi Dichter, Ya'alon worked out the basic elements of Israel's successful counter-terrorism doctrine: Keeping out suicide bombers by reoccupying Palestinian cities, putting up road blocks and erecting a state-of-the-art security fence between Israel and the West Bank.

The Ya'alon-Dichter team's greatest operational breakthrough was the development of close coordination between Shin Bet agents supplying intelligence and IDF forces acting on it in real time. As suicide bombings became more difficult to carry out, the terrorists resorted to firing Kassam rockets at civilian targets.

Should fighting resume — and many Israeli military officials expect another round after the Gaza withdrawal — stopping the Kassams will be one of the military problems the innovative Halutz will need to solve.

**Halutz intends to accelerate the technological revolution for Israel's soldiers.**

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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).  
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## Hunkering down in Gaza

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Some Israeli activists set up an encampment to resist the evacuation of the Gaza Strip.

At least 20 families, including some from the West Bank and Israel proper, have moved into an abandoned beachfront hotel near the Gaza settlement bloc of Gush Katif, a representative said this week.

"These are people who understand, like us, that the struggle is not just that of the Gush Katif residents but of those who believe in the Land of Israel and over

the continued existence of the state," the representative, Datya Yitzhaki, told Israel Radio.

Though the encampment, dubbed the Sea Stronghold, has drawn at least one known member of the outlawed extremist group Kach, Yitzhaki said there were no plans to resist the looming Gaza withdrawal with violence.

"We will stand here, in a nonviolent and democratic manner, with the force of numbers," Yitzhaki said.

# Russian Jews unhappy after tycoon sentenced

By LEV KRICHEVSKY

MOSCOW (JTA) — Russian Jewish officials believe oil tycoon Mikhail Khodorkovsky, who was sentenced this week to nine years in prison, was not targeted because of his Jewish origins — but many believe the trial did lead to a rise in anti-Semitic sentiment in Russia.

A Moscow court on Tuesday sentenced Khodorkovsky, former head of the Yukos oil company, after finding him guilty on six charges out of seven, including tax evasion, fraud and embezzlement.

Khodorkovsky's business partner, Platon Lebedev, also was jailed for nine years on the same charges. A third defendant, Andrei Krainov, was given a suspended sentence of five-and-a-half years. Lebedev and Krainov are not Jewish.

"This was to be expected," Tankred Golenpolsky, founder of the International Jewish Gazette, Russia's oldest Jewish weekly, said minutes after the sentence was made public.

"It was clear from the very beginning that Khodorkovsky won't be free before 2008," Golenpolsky said, referring to Russia's next presidential election and echoing a common view that the Kremlin orchestrated the trial to curtail Khodorkovsky's political ambitions. "Once he is free he will be the only and the strongest alternative" to President Vladimir Putin.

Khodorkovsky has been in prison since October 2003. He has 10 days to appeal the sentence, and plans to do so.

Meanwhile, the Prosecutor General's Office said Tuesday that it would file new charges against Khodorkovsky and his partners.

Another leading Russian Jewish figure said the trial had little to do with the rule of law.

"This sentence has put this case in a line of other high-profile, politically tinged criminal cases in the history of Russia," said Mikhail Chlenov, secretary-general of the Euro-Asian Jewish Congress.

Chlenov said the Kremlin saw the case as putting an end to an early era of Russian capitalism associated with former President Boris Yeltsin, during which many Jewish business tycoons got rich when formerly state-owned businesses were privatized.

Khodorkovsky's sentencing sends a clear message to influential Russian busi-

ness leaders, some of whom may have wanted to compete for power with Putin, Golenpolsky said.

The prosecutors demanded that Khodorkovsky receive 10 years. Khodorkovsky's defense said the verdict in large parts repeated prosecutors' arguments, almost word-for-word.

Khodorkovsky, 41 and the father of four children, has a Jewish father and a non-Jewish mother. Before his arrest in 2003, Khodorkovsky had mentioned privately to Jewish leaders on several occasions that he did not consider himself Jewish.

Though he was a prominent philanthropist interested in education and civil rights, he never contributed to Jewish causes.

Jewish leaders emphasized that the case wasn't motivated by anti-Semitism, but believe many Russians based their attitude toward Khodorkovsky on his ethnic origin.

"Regardless of what Khodorkovsky himself felt about his Jewishness, any anti-Semite would readily list him as a Jew," Chlenov said. "This has a certain impact on the way many Russian Jews feel today."

A spokesman for Russia's largest Jewish organization agreed.

"This case has already led to a rise of anti-Semitic moods in some circles of soci-

ety," said Boruch Gorin of the Federation of Jewish Communities of Russia, referring to some Russians — mainly from the older generation or from low-income households — who feel animosity toward the wealthy.

Some Jews, especially former top Yukos shareholders now living in Israel, exploited Jews' insecurities by describing the case as anti-Semitic, Gorin said.

Three of Yukos' top shareholders fled to Israel shortly after Khodorkovsky's arrest. One of them,

Leonid Nevzlin, former president of the Russian Jewish Congress and the best-known member of the Yukos team after Khodorkovsky, has said the Kremlin went after Yukos in part because of anti-Semitism among prominent members of the Putin administration.

Many Russian Jews took special interest in the case because of Khodorkovsky's Jewish roots. But they weren't alone: Many non-Jewish Russians saw the sentence as a comment on the regime's lack of respect for democratic freedoms and the rule of law.

"I certainly feel an extra sympathy for Khodorkovsky because of his Jewish background," said Irina Miller, a Jewish legal assistant at a Moscow law firm. "But I know a lot more non-Jews who likewise feel this is a grand injustice being done before our eyes." ■

'This case has already led to a rise of anti-Semitic moods.'

**Boruch Gorin**  
Russian Jewish official

BEHIND  
THE  
HEADLINES

## Taiwanese scholar knows her Yiddish

By DAN BLOOM

TAIPEI, Taiwan (JTA) — S.H. Chang is a Yiddish specialist at Wenzao Ursuline College of Languages in Taiwan.

She may be one of a kind — after all, you don't find many Chinese academics in Taiwan studying and writing about Yiddish.

A soft-spoken Taiwanese woman in her early 30s who has written about and researched the Yiddish language — she speaks it as well — Chang is one of the few Yiddish philologists in the Chinese-speaking world.

She heads the department of Ger-

man at Aiwan College in the subtropical, southern part of Taiwan, an island nation of 23 million Buddhists and Taoists.

"When I set about learning Yiddish, I was merely opening up a new door for myself," the professor says.

With a doctorate from Germany's Trier University under her belt, Chang has gained world renown as an expert in German and Jewish literature, delivering academic papers around the world. In addition, she has become a Jewish historian for the Chinese and Taiwanese people, as well as a philologist of German and Yiddish. ■

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## NORTH AMERICA

### Reward to define Jewish life

A Jewish philanthropist is offering thousands of dollars to someone who can best describe the driving forces of Jewish life.

Michael Steinhardt is seeking someone to write an essay describing the historic values of Judaism, how they have contributed to world history and how they can contribute to modern Jewish life.

The request for proposals will be printed in the June issue of Contact, the magazine of the Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation.

The reply deadline is the end of June, and the foundation will pay \$5,000-\$10,000 to the person it selects to write the essay.

The organization will disseminate the essay in Jewish circles and in venues where it can reach unaffiliated Jews.

## WORLD

### Irish group wants to protest Israel

An anti-Israel group in Ireland will stage a protest before an Israel-Ireland soccer game.

The Ireland Palestine Solidarity Campaign has organized a demonstration against Israeli "occupation" to coincide with the arrival of the Israeli soccer team and its hundreds of traveling supporters in Dublin on Saturday for a World Cup qualifying match.

The protesters will be marching from the center of Dublin to the Israeli Embassy two blocks from the soccer stadium.

The group is encouraging people attending the match to wave Palestinian flags.

Neither the Israeli Embassy in Dublin nor the Israel Football Association would comment on the planned protest.

### Denying the deniers

Internet providers should block French users from accessing a Holocaust denial site, Paris' district attorney said.

The comments, made Monday, came during a trial on the issue of whether Web users should be allowed to access Aaargh, which in French stands for the Association of Amateur War and Holocaust Historians.

The case, which went to trial March 8, was brought by eight anti-racist associations fighting to put into effect Internet filters to forbid access to Aaargh in France.

A law passed in June 2004 would allow a French judge to order the site's host to shut down the site or prohibit access to it.

Two of the site's hosts — OLM and Globat — have agreed to prohibit access, but a third — the American company ThePlanet.com — has refused to cooperate.

### Spy from the right?

A former far-right Austrian politician said he helped the Mossad.

Peter Sichrovsky told Austria's Profil magazine this week that he agreed to serve as a liaison between Israel's foreign spy service and the Arab world while serving as secretary-general of the Freedom Party.

"I cooperated with the Mossad until my resignation from politics," he said. "I wanted to help Israel and certainly did nothing wrong. I am no James Bond."

The Freedom Party's former chief, Jorg Haider, was forced to resign over remarks that were widely perceived as pro-Nazi. He was known for his contacts with Saddam Hussein and other Arab leaders.

"Israel wanted to use Haider as a bridge to the Arab lands with which no official contacts existed," the Jewish-born Sichrovsky said. Israeli officials declined comment on his claims.

## MIDDLE EAST

### E.U. wants Gaza houses intact

An E.U. official encouraged Israel and Israeli settlers to leave houses intact during the Gaza Strip withdrawal.

Jean Asselborn, president of the council of the European Union, said Sunday that "hundreds and hundreds of Palestinian families could use these houses and have a chance to begin their lives again with dignity."

However, Palestinian Authority officials have said that they don't want the houses, and that if Israel doesn't raze them before the withdrawal, the Palestinians will destroy them afterward.

His comments followed annual meetings with Arab officials and Israel during the Seventh Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference.

### Dollars for withdrawal

Israel will pay evacuated settlers an average of \$450,000 per family in compensation.

The government figure was presented Wednesday at an interministerial meeting in Jerusalem.

Some 8,500 settlers are to be relocated when Israel withdraws from the Gaza Strip and northern West Bank beginning in mid-August.

Their compensation packages will be set according to criteria including family size and how long they lived in their former homes.

### Double bombing foiled

Israeli security forces foiled a Palestinian double suicide bombing planned for Jerusalem.

The Shin Bet, police and army special forces arrested five Islamic Jihad terrorists this week who had packed two suitcases with explosives and detonators, it was announced Wednesday.

The bombs were to have been used Thursday morning in a double suicide attack in the Jerusalem neighborhood of Ramot.

### Iran blames Israel for Nixon's downfall

Iran's state-run television station claimed that the "Zionist lobby" was behind the Watergate affair.

The report, which aired on the Iranian news channel IRINN on May 16 and was translated by the Middle East Media Research Institute, attributed President Nixon's downfall to a "major political coup carried out by the Zionist lobby."

"By using the media as its tool," the report said, "Zionism tried to get one of its main opponents out of the way."

The clip contained quotations from Nixon's memoirs in which the former president seems to resent the influence of the pro-Israel lobby.

Nixon often expressed admiration for Israel in his private and published writings, though he also exhibited hostility to Jews in private.

In 1974 he became the first U.S. president to visit Israel.

### Ya'alon: Another intifada seen

Israel can expect Palestinian terrorism to flare up after it withdraws from the Gaza Strip, the retiring chief of staff said.

In an interview with Ha'aretz published in part on Wednesday, Lt. Gen. Moshe Ya'alon said that unless Israel continued ceding land to the Palestinians after the withdrawal planned for this summer, they would inevitably return to terrorism.

"If there is an Israeli commitment to another move, we will gain another period of quiet," he said. "If not, there will be an eruption," adding, "There is a high probability of a second war of terror."