



IN THE NEWS

London Jews 'extremely vigilant'

London's Jewish community was urged to be "extremely vigilant" as a series of fresh bomb attacks hit the British capital Thursday.

A number of blasts at lunchtime caused the Warren Street, Shepherds Bush and Oval subway stations to be evacuated, while another bomb hit a double-decker bus in East London.

Police described the explosions as "minor," with only one reported injury, unlike the July 7 suicide bombings in London that killed 56 people and injured more than 700.

"We are urging extreme vigilance," said a Community Security Trust spokesman, which advises Anglo-Jewry on safety issues.

"We are talking to community organizations, schools and shuls and giving advice on what to do, and liaising with the police. We are watching events unfold minute by minute."

Israeli police detain withdrawal opponents

Israel detained at least 200 Gaza-withdrawal opponents who tried to slip into Gaza settlements.

Most of the arrests took place Thursday morning, with security sources attributing the infiltration attempts to right-wing frustration at a police blockade that prevented their planned march on the Gaza settlement bloc of Gush Katif this week.

Groups urge U.N. action on Darfur

Jewish groups joined groups in the United States, Britain and France urging their governments to sponsor a U.N. resolution to address the genocide in Sudan.

The Save Darfur Coalition in America, which includes Jewish groups from across the denominational spectrum, joined the Collectif Urgence Darfour in France and Protect Darfur in Great Britain in asking the countries to sponsor a Security Council resolution mandating "peace enforcement" in Darfur.

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WORLD REPORT

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As withdrawal nears, so too does choice for Israel's religious soldiers

By AVI STEINBERG

JERUSALEM (JTA) — As thousands of antidisengagement activists gathered in the town of Netivot, vowing to march to a Gaza Strip settlement bloc in defiance of Israeli authorities, a young corporal waited alone for a bus in the nearby city of Ashkelon.

Fingering an orange ribbon, the symbolic color of the group that opposes the Israeli government's plan to uproot settlements in the Gaza Strip and the northern West Bank, Corporal Y. S. — who didn't want to be identified for fear of disciplinary action — admitted that he's considering heeding his rabbi's call to refuse any withdrawal-related orders.

Under the current circumstances, displaying an orange ribbon is itself a punishable offense in the Israeli Defense Forces.

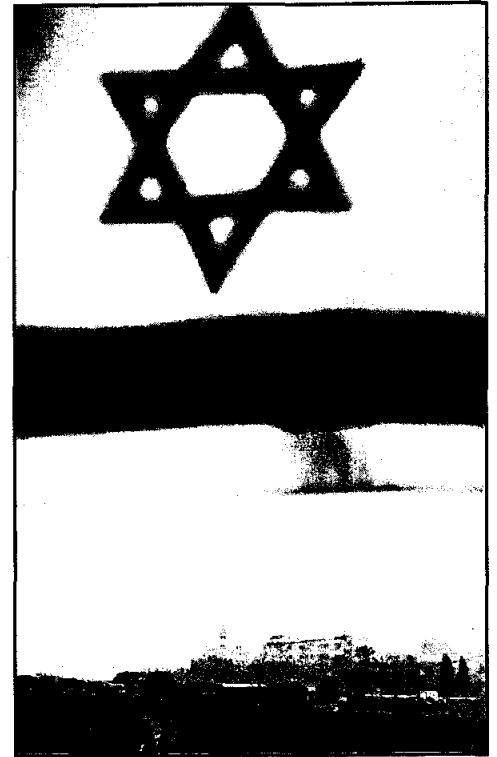
For as long as he could remember, Y. S. always knew that he'd enroll in hesder, a five-year commitment that combines army service with yeshiva study.

"In hesder," he explained, "you learn to fight, but you also get a deep understanding and feeling for why you wear the uniform."

However, with his officers and rabbis issuing contradictory orders ahead of the mid-August "disengagement" from Gaza, he's not sure what duty requires of him.

"Discipline in the name of an unjust and dangerous cause — and I believe that this plan is exactly that — undermines the purpose of the army," he said. "I don't want to look back years from now and say that I uprooted Jewish homes in the Land of Israel, that I helped compromise the security of this state, that I was 'just taking orders.'"

Following last week's closure of the Gaza



Brian Hendler

An Israeli flag flies outside a house in the Gaza Strip settlement of Elei Sinai, overlooking a nearby Palestinian town, Jan. 4.

Strip to all nonresidents and the large-scale mobilization of security forces to enforce the policy, the issue of refusal is becoming real for an increasing number of hesder soldiers.

In the past week, a series of events related to the refusal issue have prompted some legislators to question the future of the hesder program. Last week, six soldiers who hail from the hesder

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**ISRAEL'S
DISENGAGEMENT
SUMMER**

■ Religious soldiers ponder duty in Gaza withdrawal

Continued from page 1

yeshiva in Elon Moreh, a West Bank settlement, heeded their rabbi's call to refuse Gaza-related orders. All face prison time.

This week, nine hesder soldiers refused their Gaza-related orders, including two who left their posts and went missing somewhere in Gush Katif, the main Jewish settlement bloc in Gaza. Almost daily, there are reports of defiant soldiers.

As political tension in Israel rises,

many believe that the threat of refusal will increase.

'Discipline in the name of an unjust and dangerous cause undermines the purpose of the army.'

Y. S.

Israeli army corporal

A number of hesder rabbis in West Bank settlements — among them Rabbis Dov Lior of Kiryat Arba, Nachum Rabinowitz of Ma'aleh Adumim, and Elyakim Levanon of Elon Moreh — have spoken in favor of refusal. Others have tacitly approved or remained conspicuously silent.

In reference to some yeshiva heads' rulings that soldiers must refuse withdrawal orders, Deputy Prime Minister Shimon

Peres lashed out angrily.

"Who elected them? What gives them the right to make these judgments?" Peres asked. "They lack the political, moral and legal authority to make such comments. It's really outrageous."

Israeli officials tried to calm the situation on Monday, while still remaining firm.

Attorney General Menachem Mazuz announced that two of Israel's former chief rabbis, Avraham Shapira and Mordechai Eliyahu, are not immune from prosecution for their rulings in favor of refusal.

Nevertheless, Y. S. admitted that he looks up to the soldiers who have already refused and who don't fear prison.

"To me, they're Jewish heroes," he said.

For the moment, however, he'll keep the orange ribbon in his pocket. ■

Hadassah lobbies Congress on controversial stem cells

By MATTHEW E. BERGER

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Plans for Hadassah activists to meet in Washington this week had been made years in advance, but the timing could not have been more perfect.

More than 1,500 women from Hadassah, the leading advocate in the Jewish community for embryonic stem-cell research, took to Capitol Hill on Tuesday, just days before the U.S. Senate was expected to debate a bill to fund that very research.

The advocates, well-versed on the issue and well-disciplined to stick to the group's

core policy concerns, spread out through the halls of Congress to lobby their individual representatives and senators on several issues.

The legislation, which would extend funding for research on human stem cells from embryos that otherwise would be discarded, passed the House of Representatives in May. President Bush has vowed to veto it.

"We were fortunate the stem-cell vote came up, but we can't say we arranged it that way," said June Walker, Hadassah's national president. "It was just serendipity."

For the contingent from Georgia, one of the most important meetings was with aides to Sen. Johnny Isakson (R-Ga.), who is believed to be undecided on the stem-cell legislation.

Stem cells are extracted from embryos and can be manipulated to create various human-blood and tissue cells. Stem cell lines are cell groups extracted from embryos and are capable of reproducing themselves.

The Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act passed the House, 238-194, but the Act would need two-thirds support to override a presidential veto. While the bill was expected to pass the Senate this week, supporters hope it will garner the 67 votes needed to block the president's veto there.

Bush allowed research using existing stem-cell lines from 2001, but no further lines are available for use under current ad-

ministration policy. The bill would change that.

The legislation is supported throughout the Jewish community: Both the Religious Action Center for Reform Judaism and the Orthodox Union have lobbied for it.

In their meeting with the senator's aides, the Hadassah women from Georgia noted that embryonic stem-cell research could help treat or cure illnesses such as heart disease, diabetes, Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease. They compared the ethical concerns being raised about the procedure to opposition to the Polio vaccine when it was first unveiled.

"Many people here have relatives who have diseases that could be impacted by stem-cell research," Rachel Schonberger, 63, a physician from Atlanta, told Isakson's staffers. "It is not a political issue, it is a health issue."

Schonberger also said that it is very important to speak to the offices of undecided senators.

"If you're on the fence, that means you need more information," she said. "As an education organization, we can help a senator make an educated, fact-based decision."

Walker said that she believes the lobbying — and other efforts throughout the year — has an impact.

"You can't have 1,500 women walking through here with red signs and red buttons, all saying the same thing, without having a profound effect," she said. ■

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EJC head: Let us handle our own challenges

By BRETT KLINE

PARIS (JTA) — On the wall of Pierre Besnainou's top-floor office, next to the rooftop patio overlooking the Arc de Triomphe, hangs a painting of a desert-oasis scene showing elderly men in yarmulkes, a young Jewish woman preparing to cook, and their Arab companions bringing in the camels and setting up camp.

The pastoral scene of Jewish-Arab cohabitation is obvious and striking, a direct throwback to Besnainou's childhood and adolescence in Tunisia.

"I believe it and you have got to believe it," says the dapper, dark-featured Besnainou, 50, who was recently elected head of the European Jewish Congress. "Jews and Arabs can live and work together and respect each other. We have always done it in North Africa, and until recently Jews and Arabs cohabited in France as well.

"Is there a lesson in this for Israel?" he continues. "I'd like to think so, but then again, maybe the painting is from another era. Maybe it's not 'l'air du temps,' in the spirit of our era."

While Besnainou may have doubts about the painting from the North African desert, he's enthusiastic about his new job. He believes that his organization has a twofold mission: It must fight anti-Semitism in Europe, while explaining what Israel is about both to European politicians and the general public.

"Jews have always contributed to the construction of Europe, on philosophical, political, industrial, financial and commercial levels," he says. "The old anti-Semitism, coming from the extreme right, seeks to ignore that. The new anti-Semitism, from the extreme left and from North African Arab communities, is more linked to events in the Middle East. Hence, we must work on establishing more Arab-Jewish dialogue here in France. This has been said and done before, but now I'm making it a priority."

The European Jewish Congress is an umbrella organization of 38 Jewish communities in the European Union and Eastern Europe, including Ukraine and Hungary, as well as Russia, totaling about 2.5 million Jews.

Besnainou is no stranger to the organized community, having served as the EJC treasurer; the vice president of the French division of the World Jewish Congress; and as a board member of CRIF, the umbrella

organization of French Jewry, the Jewish Agency for Israel, the France-Israel Chamber of Commerce, and the Peres Peace Center in Tel Aviv.

A self-made multi-millionaire, Besnainou never worked for major financial or industrial groups. He left Tunis for Paris at age 20 and immersed himself in the import-export business, specializing in electrical appliances from Asia.

Besnainou founded the Internet search engine Liberty Surf, which was acquired by the Italian giant Tiscali in 2001 in a deal worth some \$600 million.

Besnainou has now left the business world altogether and is surfing the wave of community activism: Fighting anti-Semitism and explaining Israel to Europeans are a full-time job.

"I fully respect what American Jewish organizations have accomplished in America and how they have been able to explain what Israel is all about to the U.S. government and to the American public," Besnainou says. But, he adds, "American Jews cannot explain Israel to Europeans. Very specifically, I think it's inadmissible" that the American Israel Public Affairs Committee "tried to open an office in Brussels. Can you imagine the image" that American Jews would have in France? "And perhaps Jews in general?"

Some American Jewish officials feel that European Jewry has been too timid and disorganized to effectively counter anti-Israel propaganda and the growing anti-Semitism that has taken root since the Palestinian intifada began nearly five years ago.

But Besnainou says groups such as AIPAC, the Anti-Defamation League and the American Jewish Committee shouldn't be involved in European Jewish affairs.

"I think that the Americans have tried to overstep the European Jewish organizations," he says. "The bridge between Europe and Israel is European Jewry, not American Jewry."

Members of the French Jewish community generally agree with Besnainou's position, but with several nuances.

Although AIPAC ultimately didn't open a Brussels office, "the fact that they tried woke up European Jewish officials here," notes

Daniel Rouach, a professor at the European School of Management in Paris.

Rouach hosts "Israel Start-Up," a high-tech radio program broadcast on a French Jewish station, which is widely listened to and respected in official circles in France. He also is actively involved in the

France-Israel Chamber of Commerce and in exchanges between the European School of Management and the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa.

"Besnainou is absolutely right in seeking to limit the American Jewish role in Europe," Rouach says, "but French and European Jewish community officials have finally realized that they must move quickly to play a bigger role in the Middle East and in Europe itself."

Yossi Haklai, a Paris-based official of the Jewish Agency for Israel, agrees with Rouach.

"European Jewish groups must play a greater role in worldwide Jewish organizations, including in affairs concerning Israel," he says. "But to get there they must push for it, so I think Besnainou's nomination is a good one. And the Americans should give more recognition to French and European Jews. Perhaps that will happen as the Europeans get better organized."

Besnainou admits that Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon isn't his favorite politician.

"My guru, if you like, has always been Shimon Peres," Israel's dovish vice premier, he says. "I learned a great deal about the importance of dialogue from him, and he encouraged me to get involved in the EJC."

Besnainou is also convinced that French Jews generally know Israel better than many of their American counterparts do.

"How many Americans have visited Israel even once?" he asks. "In France in 2004 alone, one-fifth of French Jews went to Israel, more than 100,000 people." ■

'How many Americans have visited Israel even once? In France in 2004 alone, one-fifth of French Jews went to Israel, more than 100,000 people.'

Pierre Besnainou

Head of the European Jewish Congress

BEHIND
THE
HEADLINES

Russia's Reform Jews lament lack of funds

By LEV KRICHEVSKY

MOSCOW (JTA) —The Reform movement's revolution in Russia hinges on money.

That's the message conveyed by many local participants during a recent meeting of the worldwide Reform movement in Moscow.

Some 400 Reform leaders, rabbis and educators from two dozen countries gathered in the Russian capital for the 32nd international biennial convention of the World Union for Progressive Judaism in a meeting touted as the largest gathering of Jewish leaders here since the 1917 Russian Revolution.

Although the World Union, with 1.5 million members, represents the largest organizational body of any Jewish stream worldwide, its presence in the former Soviet Union is still quite small compared with that of Chabad.

There are just six Reform rabbis working in Ukraine, Russia and Belarus today, compared with Chabad's several hundred. Just 70 Reform congregations receive financial assistance from the World Union, compared with more than 450 congregations affiliated with the Chabad-sponsored Federation of Jewish Communities of the Former Soviet Union.

It was precisely to show support for the

movement in the former Soviet Union that the World Union chose Moscow as the site for its international conference this year, held June 30-July 5.

"For us, this is an indication of the trust and satisfaction in the growth of our movement here, a show of support and solidarity with our movement in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and the Baltics," said Rabbi Uri Regev, the Jerusalem-based executive

director of the World Union.

Reform leaders also noted that this summer marks 15 years since the establishment of Hineini, the first Reform congregation in the former Soviet Union,

in Moscow.

"Even though we have been here for a relatively short period of time, studies of the Jewish community show a clear preference of Russian Jews for Reform Judaism over Chabad or other Orthodox Judaism," Regev said, referring to a yet-unpublished study of Russian Jewry whose authors shared their findings with World Union leaders ahead of this month's conference.

The survey was conducted by Vladimir Shapiro, a leading Russian Jewish sociologist. It showed that more than 20 percent of Jews in St. Petersburg view Reform Judaism as the most attractive branch of the religion, compared with the less than 10 percent who said they prefer Chabad and the less

We still need simple things such as books — from basic books on Judaism to more advanced religious publications.'

Georgiy Gonik

Lay leader, Reform congregation in Krasnodar, Russia

ACROSS THE FORMER SOVIET UNION

than 5 percent who opted for non-Chasidic Orthodoxy. The remaining respondents said they are not interested in Judaism as a religion.

"What makes Chabad stronger than us?" asked Georgiy Gonik, the lay leader for a 50-member Reform congregation in Krasnodar, a southern Russian city.

His assessment, which is echoed by many other Reform leaders in the former Soviet Union, is that it is mostly an issue of money.

According to the World Union's 2004 annual report, the Reform body spent \$1.6 million on activities in the region.

In contrast, Chabad spent more than \$70 million from its central budget on the Federation of Jewish Communities, last year.

"In 15 years, we got only one computer for our Sunday school that we bought with help from a sister congregation in London," Gonik said. "A Chabad rabbi arrived in town only last year and immediately bought 10 computers."

The Reform movement in the former Soviet Union still lacks basic components, local participants said, from lay leaders committed to supporting congregations to Russian-language books on Judaism.

Unlike some other representatives of Reform congregations in the region, Gonik said that he did not come to the conference only to seek contacts with foreign synagogues and leaders who might provide some help to his cash-strapped community, although his congregation is far from well off.

The Krasnodar congregation receives \$300 monthly from the Reform movement's Moscow headquarters, which it supplements



Ilya Dolgopolsky

Participants take part in a havdalah service at the World Union for Progressive Judaism's 32nd international biennial convention, held June 30-July 5 in Moscow.

with \$50 collected in membership fees.

"I've been with the movement for 12 years now, and we still need simple things such as books — from basic books on Judaism to more advanced religious publications," he said, adding that the copies of two Russian-language Reform prayer books published by the movement are the "main valuables" in his congregation.

Rabbi Grigory Kotlyar, the Moscow-based head of the Reform movement in Russia, said the movement has a huge potential for attracting the majority of Russia's non-affiliated Jews who come from mixed marriages and cannot find their place in an Orthodox environment.

"Unfortunately, our movement has not

yet made any serious effort to attract these people," he said during a panel discussion at the conference. "After 15 years, we are still at the very beginning of our activity."

Vladimir Torchinsky just helped set up a Progressive congregation in Khabarovsk, a remote community in the Russian Far East.

"If we get a space of our own, we could attract more youth, have a real synagogue," said the 29-year-old graduate of Machon, the World Union's Moscow institute for para-rabbinic leaders.

During the conference, Regev announced two new movement initiatives designed to help congregations: an inter-faith seminar to be held near Moscow that will bring together Jewish, Moslem and

Russian Orthodox youths in a social-action project; and the impending completion of a Web-based Russian-language translation of the Plaut Modern Torah Commentary, the first modern liberal interpretation of the Pentateuch in Russian.

"Bringing international leaders here was intended to step up our activities in the region," Regev said, noting that the World Union sponsors 60 youth clubs in the former Soviet Union, with more than 1,500 regular members.

"Help us have not 1,500, but 15,000," he said during an emotional appeal to convention attendees. "They are out there." ■

(JTA correspondent Sue Fishkoff contributed to this report.)

Russian Jewish reps seek help from Western 'relatives'

By SUE FISHKOFF

MOSCOW (JTA) — When the tour buses filled with Reform Jewish leaders pulled up at the Mendelyeva seminar center on Moscow's outskirts, Simon Kleiner of Gomel, Belarus, was waiting to greet them.

"Hello, relatives," he called out cheerfully, as the foreign visitors looked back, mildly bemused.

It was the second day of the World Union for Progressive Judaism's international biennial in Moscow — the only chance for representatives of Reform communities in the former Soviet Union to make direct contact with their American and other foreign counterparts.

Many of the locals were looking for Western congregations that would agree to "twin," a formal relationship brokered by the World Union that involves a financial commitment of approximately \$5,000 a year from the foreign partner, as well as a promise to maintain regular contact.

Having a sister congregation provides a window to the outside world, Kleiner explained.

That's particularly meaningful for isolated Jewish communities like his own in the middle of Belarus, a country that does not get as many Jewish visitors as neighboring Ukraine or Russia.

"We had a rabbi come through about six years ago, and two months ago two ladies from our twin in London," he said. "They're not a wealthy congregation, so they can't send us money. But they do send medicines and vitamins."

Those are important commodities in Gomel, an industrial city that gained attention after the 1986 Chernobyl explosion as the first place where the radiation cloud drifted. Many local children have since fallen ill with thyroid cancer, which the World Health Organization believes is due to Chernobyl fallout.

Kleiner, a lieutenant in the Soviet Army at the time, was called in to do cleanup work at the reactor core a few weeks after the accident. He is still tested yearly for radiation effects, as are most of the other residents of Gomel.

"I don't think Chernobyl improved my health, but we don't have Simon without radiation to compare," he said.

Today there are about 2,000 Jews in Gomel. Fifty of them are members of the Reform congregation, with 20 more candidates. Kleiner explains that the room in which they hold services is too small to fit more than 50 people, "but if someone calls to say they can't come to

Shabbat services, a candidate can take his place that week."

So he'd like to rustle up a second foreign twin congregation that might help his congregation rent a larger space for services.

He was chosen to attend this convention because he speaks English, he says.

Just then, Kleiner was buttonholed by an elderly gentleman wearing a jacket festooned with military medals. It was Isaac Wolfson, the representative from the Reform congregation in Bobruisk, Belarus, who wanted Kleiner to help him communicate with Len and Susan Sklerov, of New City, N.Y.

"I'd like to try to open relations with you, to tell you of our experiences and families," Kleiner translated Wolfson's words to the Sklerovs.

"What kind of relations do you want?" Len Sklerov asked, explaining that their hometown congregation is already "twinned" with the Reform congregation in Kiev, where his father was born.

Wolfson says Bobruisk was a Jewish cultural center before World War II, but it now has fewer than 2,000 Jews out of a population of a quarter-million. He says the government of Belarus is trying to encourage Jews to return to the city, but he doesn't think there's much hope of that.

Later, the Sklerovs say they gave their e-mail address to Wolfson, and they will talk to their congregation in New York about the possibility of establishing a second twin. "We have a couple of members from Belarus; it might work out," Len Sklerov says.

Meanwhile, outside on the front lawn the representative from the Reform congregation in Cherkassy, Ukraine, is engaged in serious conversation with Mel and Nena Chudnof from West Bloomfield, Mich., a heavily Jewish suburb of Detroit.

Mel Chudnof is studiously compiling a list of items the Cherkassy representative says her congregation needs, as well as specific programs she'd like funded. He hopes to drum up interest among several Reform congregations in the greater Detroit area and perhaps send a delegation to Ukraine in the near future.

It's a harder sell, convention delegates admit. Now that the Cold War is over and the Soviet government has collapsed, the lack of crisis mode makes it very hard to raise funds for post-Soviet Jewry.

"There are so many priorities that congregations face, it's sometimes difficult for them," says Len Sklerov. "If it's a choice between educating their own children or supporting Kiev, they just can't make the stretch." ■

New anti-Semitism study useful for U.K. Jews

By DANIELLA PELED

LONDON (JTA) — An unprecedented collaboration between a British Jewish think tank and London's Metropolitan Police has produced research that both hope can be used to develop new strategies to combat anti-Semitic crimes.

The Institute for Jewish Policy Research teamed up with British police to produce the most comprehensive analysis to date of incidents over the past three years in which Jews have been targeted in London.

"It's groundbreaking research," said Mike Whine of the Community Security Trust, the body that has monitored and recorded threats to Jews in the United Kingdom since 1984. "It's the first time the police have given an outside researcher access to work with their own criminologists."

The study aims to take a closer look at the nature and social context of anti-Semitic incidents, providing tools for understanding the motivations for racial attacks and working to prevent them in the future.

The Metropolitan Police Service "works with a range of communities in London," said Commander Steve Allen, who heads its diversity directorate. "This research will help us strengthen the service that we deliver to victims of hate crimes, as it gives us increased understanding of offenders and the crimes they commit."

British Jewish leaders agreed.

"Police forces are very sensitive, especially in areas with a large Jewish population," said Jon Benjamin, the chief executive of the Board of Deputies, the representative body of Anglo Jewry. The Jewish community, particularly through the Community Security Trust, has "a very good relationship with the police, which needs to percolate down to the streets and up through the criminal justice system."

Two police criminologists, Susan Paterson and Vicky Kielinger, joined Paul Iganski, a fellow at the Jewish research institute, to examine the 1,296 anti-Semitic incidents reported to police between January 2001 and December 2004.

They mapped their nature and location, the characteristics and motivations of the offenders, and the events that might have spurred the incidents.

"Understanding the everyday dynamics of hate crime is important for policing it effectively," said Iganski, a lecturer in sociology and criminology at the University of Essex.

The team found that the number of anti-Semitic attacks in the United Kingdom — with one in six involving violence — might be much greater than previously thought.

In 2004, the trust recorded 532 incidents, its highest annual total and a 42 percent increase from the previous year.

But the joint research shows that the combined number of attacks reported to police and the trust proved to be higher than the number each agency recorded separately, suggesting that victims tend to inform either the police or the trust, but not both.

"There is under reporting," Whine said. "Our figures show an increase more or less year-on-year since the intifada began in 2000."

Even when incidents were reported, less than one in 10 resulted in a suspect being charged or cautioned or having proceedings brought against him or her.

Benjamin said there were further concerns about the many opportunities for the racial-hatred element to disintegrate during a prosecution, because of plea bargains

or the fact that it's easier to win a successful prosecution on lesser charges.

"That means cases might end with a conviction for simple assault or criminal damage," he said. "We lose a very important opportunity to send a message out to the wider community that this kind of thing can't be tolerated."

The study reinforces the link between heightened tensions in the Middle

East and violence against Jews in the United Kingdom. That link had been highlighted in a trust report that showed that after the Palestinian intifada began in September 2000, attacks the next month soared to 105, the highest monthly total in five years.

After the Israeli military assassinated the Hamas leader Sheik Ahmed Yassin in March of last year, 100 anti-Semitic incidents followed, including 54 recorded within 48 hours of Yassin's death.

During April and May of 2002, around the time of Operation Defensive Shield, the massive Israeli antiterror incursion into the West Bank, researchers found that one in five incidents involved anti-Israel sentiment.

"Anti-Semitic incidents, like hate crimes in general, do not occur in a vacuum," Paterson said, emphasizing the importance of examining background environments. "They occur in a cultural context where bigotry and, in some instances, violence are used by offenders to make their targets more vulnerable."

Kielinger said the research highlighted patterns in attacks against Jews that she hoped would contribute to international debates on hate crime.

"Our research suggests that most anti-Semitic incidents recorded by the police do not appear to be carried out by perpetrators associated with organized or extremist groups but instead occur as part of the dynamics of everyday life."

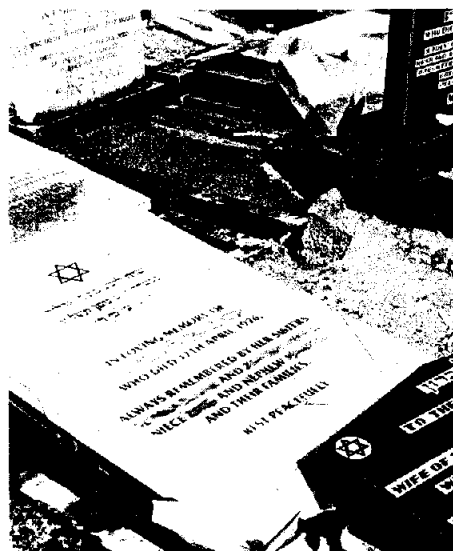
"The pattern of attacks has changed too," Whine added. "In the last few years there have been peaks and troughs corresponding to the Israeli-Palestinian situation. Now there is a continuous high level. Anti-Semitism is becoming structural rather than transient."

Understanding the everyday dynamics of hate crime is important for policing it effectively.

Paul Iganski

Fellow, Institute for Jewish Policy Research

**AROUND
THE JEWISH
WORLD**



Courtesy of Community Security Trust

Tombstones damaged by vandals at the Rainsough Cemetery, a Jewish cemetery in Manchester, England, in June 2005.

ARTS & CULTURE

Attorney writes thriller about Mossad agent

By ALANA B. ELIAS KORNFELD

NEW YORK (JTA) — Many years ago an attorney working for the U.S. Department of Justice was physically attacked outside a bank while on assignment in Europe. In shock and soaked in his own blood, he took a cab to the airport to take the first flight out. A few hours later he landed in Reykjavik, Iceland.

Quick thinking and impulsiveness were not new qualities for Israeli-born Haggai Carmon, who has been the only attorney to represent the U.S. government in its Israeli civil litigation, such as customs and art-ownership disputes between the two countries, since 1985. But it was the memory of that particular incident that inspired his first novel, "Triple Identity," which recently made its debut in American bookstores.

The book is based on Carmon's experience as an outside consultant for the U.S. Department of Justice assigned to asset recovery and intelligence gathering in multinational, multimillion-dollar cases over the past two decades.

"It has always been a realization that the adventures that I've been going through were so remote from what I thought would be a practice of law," says Carmon, 60, who serves as legal counsel to the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv.

Dan Gordon, the protagonist of "Triple Identity," is an Israeli attorney and a former Mossad agent working for a fictional government office.

His assignment is to track down \$90 million thought to have been stolen by one Raymond DeLouise. Gordon soon discovers that DeLouise, who is found dead at the beginning of the book, has two other names — Dov Peled and Bruno Popescu — and two other citizenships.

The questions surrounding DeLouise's "triple identity" set the stage for this high-stakes thriller, which unfolds in four countries.

Though Gordon and Carmon seem similar, the author is adamant that they're not the same person.

"I am not Dan Gordon; Dan Gordon is a fictional character," he says. ■

Jewish money flows online

By TZVI KAHN

NEW YORK (JTA) — When Carol Vavra, a major and tactical airlift navigator in the U.S. Air Force, returns home from the Middle East at the end of July, her husband will have a surprise waiting for her.

Paul Vavra, a recently retired Air Force major and an avid classic rock fan, bought his wife a pair of tickets to a Rolling Stones concert for \$760 on eBay. In the process, he made a substantial donation to the UJA-Federation of New York.

Last month the federation hosted its first auction on eBay. With about 200 sales of items contributed by donors, the auction raised about \$115,000 for the organization.

The initiative reflects a growing trend among Jewish groups to move their fund-raising ventures to the Internet, which they say has proven to be far more efficient than more traditional modes of solicitation.

Paul Vavra, who is not Jewish, said he didn't plan to buy tickets for the sake of donating to the federation, but he's glad the pricey purchase will benefit a worthy cause.

"I'd like to think that UJA-Federation is not going to stiff me," he said with a laugh. ■

In addition to the concert tickets, up for bid were a behind-the-scenes trip to the Fox television show "24"; tickets to TV shows "American Idol" and "Total Request Live"; seats at New York Mets, Yankees and Knicks games; and dining opportunities with the historian Deborah Lipstadt and the "As the World Turns" star Anthony Herrera.

Various artworks, jewelry, fine dining and sports memorabilia were also available to the highest bidder.

Some items were even pricier than the Rolling Stones tickets: The day on the set of "24," which included airfare, went for \$16,600; a week at the Canyon Ranch spa in Tucson had a final bid of \$14,600; and two tickets to the MTV Video Music Awards sold for \$4,100.

"We thought it might be something new and exciting and different for us to do something on eBay," said Bonnie Shevins, the UJA-Federation's group vice president.

The auction was part of continuing efforts at online fund raising by the UJA, which has raised more than \$1 million through its Web site in the past year.

"The eBay initiative is another notch in our efforts to develop e-philanthropy," Shevins said. "It's a really wonderful way of having people connect with us."

Online fund raising has proven to be auspicious for other types of philanthropy as well. According to Shevins, when the federation launched a campaign to raise money for victims of December's South-

east Asian tsunami, it raised about \$500,000 online — some 15 percent of the \$3.25 million total it raised for tsunami relief. ■

According to Gary Tobin, president of the San Francisco-based Institute for Jewish & Community Research and an expert on Jewish philanthropy and demography, the growth of online solicitation shows that Jewish organizations are willing to adopt less traditional modes of fund raising in response to changing social trends.

"The Jewish community has been relatively slow in developing online philanthropy, but there have been some remarkable successes," Tobin said — noting, for example, that the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee raised millions of dollars online for tsunami victims.

Tobin says Jewish philanthropists have traditionally focused on working directly with wealthy donors capable of giving large single contributions. The move to online fund raising, he said, reflects a recognition that groups also can attract smaller donations from larger numbers of people with greater efficiency.

"People would rather do it online than go to another dinner," he said.

According to Mark Charendoff, the president of the Jewish Funders Network, online fund raising is particularly appealing for organizations because it enables them to reduce fund-raising costs while educating Web-site visitors about their work.

"I think there's no question it's a growing trend," he said. ■

The eBay initiative is another notch in our efforts to develop e-philanthropy. It's a really wonderful way of having people connect with us.

Bonnie Shevins

UJA-Federation

NEWS IN BRIEF

MIDDLE EAST

Israel wants U.S. to help with Arab ties

Israel expects the United States to broker new diplomatic relations with Arab countries in the wake of its pullout from the Gaza Strip.

Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom greeted Condoleezza Rice, the U.S. secretary of state, on Thursday on her third visit to Jerusalem this year.

Rice decided to visit the region at the last minute in order to spur Israel and the Palestinians to coordinate ahead of Israel's withdrawal next month from the Gaza Strip.

Rice said she would raise "the need for tight coordination and for rapid resolution of a number of key issues that are before the parties in advance of the disengagement."

Israelis to government: Legalize prostitution

Most Israelis support the concept of government-controlled prostitution, a survey found.

Conducted by pollster Mina Tzemach, the survey was presented this week to a joint meeting of the Knesset Committee for the Advancement of the Status of Women and the parliamentary inquiry committee against the trafficking of women, the Jerusalem Post reported.

Among 500 Israelis polled, 65 percent agreed that prostitution should be supervised by public health officials, and 60 percent said prostitutes should receive social benefits.

NORTH AMERICA

Gilon back to Israel

Naor Gilon, the Israeli diplomat at the center of federal investigations of a former Pentagon official and former AIPAC staffers, is returning to Israel.

Officials at the Israeli Embassy in Washington held a goodbye party Wednesday for Gilon, the embassy's chief political officer, and several other departing staffers.

Two former officials of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee are expected to be indicted for receiving classified information from Larry Franklin, a former Pentagon Iran specialist, and passing it to Gilon.

Franklin also is accused of passing information directly to Gilon.

David Segal, spokesman for the embassy, said Gilon's departure after three years is unrelated to the controversy.

Happily ever after

The world's oldest married couple is Jewish. Philadelphia residents Herbert and Magda Brown, 105 and 100, respectively, have been recognized as the "oldest living married couple, aggregate age" by The Guinness Book of World Records.

The couple married in Magda's native Hungary in 1930 and then moved to Austria, Herbert's homeland, where he was arrested by the Nazis and sent to Dachau. Herbert was released in exchange for all of the family's possessions, and he, Magda and their only daughter fled to London, later making their way to the United States.

Bush opposes pro-Israel House initiatives

The Bush administration expressed its opposition to a number of pro-Israel provisions in a congressional finance bill.

A "statement of administration policy" issued Wednesday came too late to stop the U.S. House of Representatives' passage of a State Department authorization bill.

Among the provisions the administration opposed were further

restrictions on direct aid to the Palestinian Authority; allowing applicants born in Jerusalem to list "Jerusalem, Israel" as their birthplace on their passports; and the transfer of \$240 million in assistance to Egypt from military to economic aid.

Congress restricts P.A. aid

The U.S. House of Representatives attached a further restriction to assistance to the Palestinian Authority.

The amendment that Rep. Shelley Berkeley (D-Nev.) proposed Wednesday to the State Department authorization bill would break up funding to the Palestinian Authority on a quarterly rather than annual basis, allowing Congress to withhold money if the Palestinian Authority fails to account for how the money is spent.

Spiritual left-wingers gather in Berkeley

About 1,200 people gathered in Berkeley, Calif., at a four-day interfaith conference on spiritual progressive activism.

The gathering, which began Wednesday, is intended to inject spiritual energy into the political left and "take back God" from the religious right.

"The right is correct: There is a huge spiritual crisis out there," said the conference organizer, Rabbi Michael Lerner, editor of Tikkun magazine. "And the left doesn't get it."

The conference is the first step in creating a "network of spiritual progressives," Lerner said, who will "critique the left and the right from a consistent moral standpoint," to counter the "greed and materialism" that drives the American economic and political system.

Vancouver sheik under investigation

Police are investigating whether a Vancouver Muslim cleric's racial slurs against Jews violated Canadian hate laws.

South African-born Sheik Younus Kathrada, who is associated with the Dar al-Madinah Islamic Society, has referred to Jews as "the brothers of monkeys and swine" in lectures and on the Internet, and has urged Muslims to engage in holy war against non-believers.

Jewish officials who first complained about Kathrada's rhetoric last year say they're not concerned by the slow pace of the police investigation.

"We expect the law-enforcement agencies are going to engage in due diligence, and we maintain confidence in them," said Len Rudner, the Canadian Jewish Congress' national director of community relations.

WORLD

Pope to go to shul

Pope Benedict XVI confirmed that he will visit a synagogue in Cologne next month.

The visit to Germany will be Benedict's first return to his homeland since he was elected to the papacy in April.

According to details of the trip announced Wednesday by the Vatican, Benedict will visit the Cologne synagogue for an hour at noon on Aug. 19.

Rome demo banned

Law-enforcement authorities in Rome banned a demonstration by right-wingers demanding that convicted Nazi war criminal Erich Priebke be pardoned.

But the demonstration's far-right organizers said they would defy the ban and stage some sort of low-key rally.

Priebke, 91, is serving a life sentence for his part in the 1944 massacre of 335 Romans at the Ardeatine Caves outside the city.

Some 75 of the victims were Jews.