

## IN THE NEWS

## Egypt to secure Gaza Strip border

Israel announced that Egypt will secure the southern border of the Gaza Strip.

The Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv said Wednesday that Israel has agreed to hand over control of the buffer zone on the Gaza-Egypt border to the Egyptian military.

Around 750 Egyptian troops are expected to be deployed along the eight-mile frontier to stop arms smuggling from the Sinai Desert to Palestinian terrorist groups in Gaza.

## One killed in Jerusalem

Two Orthodox men were stabbed, one fatally, in Jerusalem's Old City.

Wednesday night's attacker is believed to be a Palestinian.

## Rumsfeld meets with Jewish leaders

Jewish officials and other religious leaders discussed religious tolerance issues with Donald Rumsfeld.

The U.S. defense secretary expressed support for forthcoming guidelines on religious tolerance in the Air Force on Wednesday, in the wake of discriminatory practices at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., and said that if the guidelines were effective they could be replicated at other branches of the military, sources told JTA.

The religious leaders also were briefed about accommodations at a makeshift prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The Jewish community was represented by Rabbi Levi Shemtov, Washington director of American Friends of Lubavitch; Jason Isaacson, director of government and international affairs for the American Jewish Committee; Rabbi David Saperstein, director of the Religious Action Center for Reform Judaism; Rabbi Shmuel Bloom, executive vice president of Agudath Israel of America; and Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean and founder of the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

# WORLD REPORT

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## Ukrainian Jewish officials want legal crackdown on anti-Semitism

By VLADIMIR MATVEYEV

**K**IEV, Ukraine (JTA) — Jewish leaders in Ukraine are protesting what they consider authorities' inadequate response to a recent spate of anti-Semitic propaganda.

Ukrainian nationalists recently asked President Viktor Yuschenko to open criminal proceedings against "Judeo-Nazis" in Ukraine, singling out Chabad rabbis and the main work of Chabad literature, the Tanya.

In an open letter to Yuschenko, members of the Ukrainian Conservative Party and several extremist editors demanded that Jews be prevented from teaching the Tanya in Jewish schools and synagogues to stop the spread of "this misanthropic religious system."

In a separate appeal, one of many that appeared in the media during the last few weeks, Ukrainians were urged not to buy food products that carry kosher certification.

"Every conscientious Ukrainian should once and for all give up using all foodstuffs containing kosher symbols," read the appeal, published in a Kiev newspaper.

A number of leading Ukrainian brands of beer, soft drinks, vodka and candy — some of which are sold abroad as well — have obtained kosher certification in recent years.

The appeals, which come as Ukraine begins looking forward to parliamentary elections in spring 2006, is throwing the spotlight on the controversial activities of what is believed to be Ukraine's largest private university.

MAUP, an acronym for the Interregional Academy of Personnel Management, has gained a reputation as the largest anti-Se-

mitic publishing house in the country.

Some 70 percent of all anti-Semitic publications that appear in Ukraine are produced by MAUP and its affiliates, according to Josef Zissels, leader of the Ukrainian Va'ad, the oldest secular Jewish umbrella group in the country.

"These are mostly publications of one organization, and other Ukrainian media don't get involved" lately in anti-Semitic propaganda, Zissels said.

Among other things, MAUP recently published a blacklist of media and organizations distributing or supporting "Jewish racism, Judeo-Nazism and Jewish organized crime in Ukraine."

Early this summer, MAUP hosted an anti-Semitic conference titled "Zionism as the Greatest Threat to Contemporary Civilization" co-chaired by U.S. white supremacist David Duke.

A series of anti-Semitic articles was published in recent weeks by Personnel Plus, a MAUP newspaper sold in Kiev that has a sizeable circulation. The owner and president of MAUP, Georgiy Schokin, also co-founded a new political party, the Ukrainian Conservative Party, that will campaign in next year's parliamentary election.

Most observers agree that the recent wave of anti-Semitic propaganda has to do with the elections. But not all Jewish leaders are convinced.

"This is part of the long-term activity of anti-Semitic groups in Ukraine," Eduard Dolinsky, executive director of the United Jewish Community of Ukraine umbrella organization, told JTA.

Jewish leaders expect authorities to respond strongly.

These groups "must be taken to court for

*Continued on page 2*

ACROSS  
THE FORMER  
SOVIET UNION

## ■ Ukrainian Jews want more than talk to counter recent anti-Semitic incidents

*Continued from page 1*

the incitement of ethnic hatred," Dolinsky said. "So far Ukrainian authorities have been doing nothing to stop it."

Yuschenko has made a number of public statements condemning anti-Semitism since his inauguration in January, but Jewish leaders say authorities must do more to combat anti-Semitism in the media.

"During their visits abroad and in meetings with Jewish delegations in Ukraine, top Ukrainian officials always speak of their opposition to xenophobia and anti-Semitism," said Mikhail Frenkel, a veteran Jewish journalist in Kiev and head of the Association of Jewish Media in Ukraine. "However, anti-Semitic conferences, articles and petitions in MAUP's publications continue to spread, and remain a big concern."

In response, Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Timoshenko promised to personally protect the interests of ethnic minorities. In a July 30 Cabinet meeting, Timoshenko said she was ready to address the issue since other leading politicians have been unable to do so.

"If there is no political power which protects ethnic minorities, I personally, and those people who are united around Fatherland, will do it," Timoshenko said referring to her political party.

Jewish leaders aren't impressed. They say Timoshenko should long ago have expelled an anti-Semitic politician from Fatherland: Lawmaker Levko Lukyanenko was among participants in an anti-Zionist conference organized by MAUP. Lukyanenko was never rebuked by

Timoshenko or the party.

But a Jewish member of Timoshenko's bloc said he had confidence in her.

"Her words will be supported by action," Alexander Feldman, a lawmaker and president of the Jewish Foundation of Ukraine, said in a recent interview.

He said he hoped a state-organized roundtable on protecting ethnic minorities, scheduled for late August, might help ease tensions in society.

For Jewish leaders, the anti-Semitic wave is likely to be a test for the country's new leadership, which swept to power on the wave of public protests last year

against a rigged presidential vote.

"Viktor Yuschenko is not an anti-Semite, but he is probably too tolerant to people who are," Rabbi Ya'akov Dov Bleich, the chief rabbi of Ukraine, told JTA earlier this year.

Another leading Jewish authority said anti-Semitic propaganda, as well as a few physical incidents, may result from the initial stage

of democratization in Ukraine triggered by last year's popular protests.

"The anti-Semitic outbursts are a post-revolutionary scum," said Rabbi Moshe Azman, Kiev's chief rabbi. ■

**'The anti-Semitic outbursts are a post-revolutionary scum.'**

**Rabbi Moshe Azman**  
Kiev's chief rabbi

## Film on Israeli Arab pickle-makers, small but sweet, to air on television

By TOM TUGEND

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — "Pickles, Inc." is a small, unpretentious documentary about eight Arab widows from a village in northern Israel who break all kinds of traditions by starting a tiny factory producing homemade pickles.

As modest as it seems at first, "Pickles," which airs Aug. 30 at 9 p.m. on many public television stations in the United States, has surprising depth.

It can be seen as part of the recent trend by Israeli filmmakers to sympathetically explore the daily lives of their Arab countrymen, as the struggle of Arab women to stir against generations of submission by testing the boundaries of their independence, as a look into the joys and pitfalls facing novices trying to start their own small business, and, finally, as a bit of lighthearted news from a land of generally shrieking headlines.

When Israeli filmmaker Dalit Kimor first approached the eight women from the village of Tamra in the Galilee, she faced a language barrier and the insistence by the "cast" on an all-female film crew.

Once Kimor gained their confidence,

the mostly middle-aged women proved to be high-spirited, salty characters, whose resilience in the face of widowhood, troubled children, lack of education, social taboos and complete ignorance of business is truly bracing.

As the proprietors of the Azka Pickle Cooperative spend long hours slicing, dicing and preparing their product according to old family recipes, they have to teach themselves such arcane skills as marketing, distribution and accounting.

Samara, as the only one with at least a ninth-grade education and a knowledge of Hebrew, is elected as the director of the enterprise.

Almaza, the sole car owner, becomes the sales director and distributor.

After their shifts, Fatma and Marina each take care of eight children.

Like many other first-time entrepreneurs, the pickle-makers ultimately find themselves in over their heads, but each emerges as a stronger, more independent woman.

There isn't a single scene or complaint about Israeli checkpoints, discrimination or dispossession. The sole interethnic question: Will Israeli Jews like Arab pickles? ■

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# Gay and lesbian Jews from U.S. visit Israel

By DANIELLA PELED

TEL AVIV (JTA) — It was a solidarity mission with a difference.

As part of a pioneering American initiative aimed at forging links between gay and lesbian Jews in America and their Israeli contemporaries, a group recently made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land both to visit the traditional litany of tourist attractions and to take in sites specifically significant to gays and lesbians.

Dubbed "Pride in Israel," the Aug. 15-21 mission brought together some 50 participants aged 23 to 65 from across the United States under the auspices of the United Jewish Communities, an umbrella group for North American federations.

"There was a sense of untapped opportunity to engage more at a local level with the gay and lesbian community," said mission chair Stuart Kurlander, 42, a Washington lawyer. "This was an opportunity to visit Israel and learn about its history, as well as to understand the status of gays and lesbians and the challenges they face here."

Based in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv with excursions around the country, the mission offered sessions with Israeli politicians as well as civil rights activists, educators and others in the lesbian and gay community.

In addition to bolstering participants' Jewish identities, the mission aimed to give participants a greater understanding of the full spectrum of gay and lesbian life in the Jewish homeland, as well as insight into the political situation in the Middle East. Participants experienced firsthand one of the most momentous political events in Israel's history as it evacuated Jewish settlers from the Gaza Strip during the group's trip.

Their Jerusalem hotel, the Hyatt Regency, also was serving as a temporary home for some 100 settler families who had been bused there from the freshly evacuated settlement of Neveh Dekalim.

"Disengagement was the only topic on anyone's minds," Kurlander said. "I can't help sympathizing with the trauma of having to leave your homes."

Despite the difficult situation, "there was never any suggestion we wouldn't come," he added. "We're here at a historic time."

Kurlander has worked extensively to build ties with Israeli gays and lesbians, including founding American Friends of the Agudah, a group that educates Americans on the role of Israel's largest and most prominent gay and lesbian organization.

Activists have worked to ensure that same-sex couples in Israel have many of the same rights awarded to married couples. Gays are fully included in Israel's military.

"Compared to the U.S.," gays and lesbians "have greater rights in Israel," Kurlander noted. "But there is still a need to educate the wider community that gays and lesbians exist and should be shown tolerance."

In addition to standard tourist sites such as the Israel Museum and the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial, the group visited sites of particular gay and lesbian interest, including celebrating Shabbat at the Jerusalem Open House community center.

"It was great," said Noa Sattath, the Open House chairwoman. "We were so happy to have the mission and had such an interesting exchange of views about what it means to be GLBT," or gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender, "and Jewish."

"A lot of GLBT Jews feel alienated from their own community, and missions like this give them a chance to reconnect to their Jewish identity."

Participants included members of the Reform and Conservative movements as

well as modern Orthodox Jews. Rabbi Steven Greenberg, the first openly gay Orthodox rabbi and one of the founders of the Jerusalem Open House, served as rabbi in residence for the mission.

There were meetings with political figures including Uzi Even — who as a

Meretz representative in the previous Knesset was Israel's first openly gay Knesset member — and briefings about Israeli programs such as Hoshen, a national educational and volunteer body, the Israeli Gay Youth Organization and other programs for gay youngsters.

The group also addressed general social-welfare issues, visiting PACT in Hadera, a program designed to support Ethiopian immigrant children and their parents, and Givat Haviva, a retreat and conference center dedicated to Jewish-Arab coexistence.

Organizers hope to build on the success of the trip, which was advertised in mailings to the federation community, as well as ads in the gay press.

"We're looking for those already involved to increase their commitment and to help reach out to other gays and lesbians to become members of the federation family," Kurlander said.

Missions like this one give gay and lesbian Jews a 'chance to reconnect to their Jewish identity.'

Noa Sattath

Chairwoman, Jerusalem Open House community center

## Poll: Gaza withdrawal supported

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The smooth completion of the Gaza withdrawal boosted Israeli confidence in the plan, a poll found.

According to a Ma'ariv survey published Wednesday, 56 percent of Israelis back the evacuation of Gaza and the northern West Bank, while 35 percent are opposed.

The findings suggested that public confidence in Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's landmark policy has been buoyed by the

fact that the withdrawals took place far ahead of schedule and with almost no casualties.

Asked to rate the performance of military and police evacuation teams, Ma'ariv's respondents gave them an 8.8 out of 10. Settlers removed from their homes got a support rating of 7.1, while hard-line right-wingers who infiltrated the settlements to confront security forces lagged behind with a 4.1.

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## MIDDLE EAST

### Mofaz eyes options

Israel warned the Palestinians not to fire at Israelis from evacuated West Bank areas. Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz, interviewed after Israel completed the evacuation of four northern West Bank settlements along with the Gaza Strip, played down concerns that the withdrawals would enable Palestinian terrorists to fire mortars and rockets at Israeli communities with impunity.

"Our ability to confront any increase in terror from Judea and Samaria is very effective," Mofaz told Army Radio on Wednesday. "If a Kassam is fired at Israel, we will take over the area in question within a few hours," he said, referring to the makeshift rockets used by Hamas terrorists in Gaza, and which West Bank counterparts have been manufacturing in recent months.

Israel also has said it reserves the right to send forces back into Gaza if there are cross-border attacks there.

### Withdrawal's end weeks away

All Israeli forces are expected to leave the Gaza Strip by October, the Palestinian Authority president said.

Addressing reporters in Cairo, Mahmoud Abbas said Wednesday he had received an Israeli undertaking to complete the Gaza withdrawal by Oct. 4.

But Israel's defense minister suggested that the move could be finished even sooner.

"I don't think we will complete the disengagement process before the middle of September," Shaul Mofaz told Army Radio.

### Gaza memorial planned

Anti-withdrawal rabbis have raised an uproar in Israel with a plan to establish a Yad Vashem-style memorial to the Gaza Strip withdrawal.

Rabbis David Druckman and Shalom Wolpa said Wednesday that their museum — bearing the same name as the famed Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem — would be a testament to the "crime" of the evacuation of 9,000 settlers from Gaza and the northern West Bank.

Yad Vashem denounced the plan as "outrageous," as did Yosef Lapid, a Holocaust survivor who heads the secular Shinui Party.

It was not clear when the settler memorial is to be inaugurated or who will fund its construction.

### Report: Settlement to be fenced in

Israel is moving ahead with a plan to fence in a key West Bank settlement. Officials said Wednesday that expropriation orders had been issued for Palestinian farmland around Ma'aleh Adumim.

By looping around Ma'aleh Adumim, the fence will effectively turn it into a suburb of Jerusalem.

The United States has voiced alarm over Israel's plans, urging it not to establish facts on the ground that could undermine peace moves with the Palestinians.

Palestinian landowners are expected to petition Israel's High Court of Justice against the expropriation.

Past legal challenges have driven Israel to reroute the fence, but Attorney General Menachem Mazuz has approved the plan.

### Gaza pets also evacuated

Israeli officials said they had recovered one-third of the pets left behind by settlers evacuated from the Gaza Strip.

The officials said Wednesday that around 100 pets — including an iguana, a donkey, various birds, turtles, dogs and cats — had been located in the ruins of Gaza settlements, while another 200 were believed to still be at large.

## NORTH AMERICA

### Olmert, Rice discuss 'road map'

Condoleezza Rice expressed interest in the Israeli project to resettle evacuated Gaza settlers in the Negev and Galilee.

The U.S. secretary of state met Wednesday with Ehud Olmert, Israel's interim finance minister, in Washington and expressed appreciation for Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank.

The two also discussed reviving the "road map" peace plan, Olmert told reporters after the meeting.

Olmert warned Rice not to expect dramatic developments in the next few months as both Israelis and Palestinians prepare for elections, and no timetable for movement toward peace were discussed.

Olmert said an Israeli delegation will arrive in Washington in the next few weeks, led by Yossi Bachar, the director general of Israel's Finance Ministry, to discuss Israel's request for additional American economic aid.

### Robertson: God will punish Israel

Televangelist Pat Robertson reportedly said God will judge Israel for withdrawing from the Gaza Strip.

"The almighty God said he was going to judge the nation which has parted from his land and that he was going to bring judgment upon that nation," the Jerusalem Post reported, citing the Christian Coalition's Web site.

Robertson long has been a supporter of Israeli settlers.

## WORLD

### Benedict touts synagogue visit

Pope Benedict XVI said his visit to a synagogue in Cologne was a highlight of his trip to Germany.

Benedict emphasized Wednesday how emotional his visit to the synagogue was last Friday.

He also emphasized his meeting with Muslim leaders. Benedict was in Germany for Catholic World Youth Day.

### Man sues over swastika

An Israeli living in South Africa sued his neighbor over a swastika painted on a fence.

Yaron Fishman said Gerald Barkhuizen painted the swastika and other anti-Semitic scrawls on the fence after a dispute last month over a dog kennel near Fishman's property, the Jerusalem Post reported.

Fishman says he hopes the matter can be resolved before his father, a Holocaust survivor, visits him.

Barkhuizen said free speech allows him to paint whatever he chooses.

### Jailed tycoon launches hunger strike

A jailed Russian tycoon with Jewish roots launched a hunger strike.

Mikhail Khodorkovsky launched the strike to protest the treatment of his business partner, Platon Lebedev, who was moved to an isolation cell last week.

Khodorkovsky, Russia's richest man and former head of the Yukos oil company, recently was sentenced to nine years in jail after being found guilty of tax evasion, fraud and embezzlement.

Lebedev, who is not Jewish, was jailed for nine years on the same charges.

### British Jews to rally for Israel

British Jews are staging a pro-Israel rally this weekend.

Sunday night's rally in London is intended to unite different segments of the British Jewish community in a show of support for Israel after its withdrawal from the Gaza Strip.

Organizations from across the political and religious spectrum are participating in the event.