

## IN THE NEWS

## Court in U.S. freezes P.A. assets

A court in the United States froze the Palestinian Authority's U.S. assets because of an unpaid court order regarding a terror attack.

The Palestinian governing body was ordered last year to pay \$116 million in damages related to the 1996 shooting of Yaron Ungar, an American citizen, and his Israeli wife, but has not done so.

The Boston Globe reported Tuesday that the court temporarily froze assets of the Palestinian Authority and the PLO in April, and blocked the funds indefinitely in May.

The organizations are still allowed to access money to pay for normal operations in the United States.

Palestinian representatives were unavailable for comment, and State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said the Bush administration was aware of the case, but was not getting involved.

## Knesset OKs Gaza hand-over

The Knesset approved an agreement to let Egyptian troops police the southern border of the Gaza Strip.

The proposal to remove Israeli troops from the 8.5-mile frontier, which sees frequent arms smuggling from the Sinai to Palestinian terrorists in Gaza, was ratified Wednesday by a vote of 53-28.

## Immigrant to Israel lights himself on fire

A U.S. immigrant to Israel set himself on fire to protest the recent Gaza withdrawal.

Baruch Ben-Menachem, born Bret Taback, was hospitalized with serious injuries Wednesday after setting himself on fire in the courtyard of a Hebrew-language school in Jerusalem.

A paramedic said the man mumbled, "I did it because of Gush Katif."

He was described as a newly religious man who kept mainly to himself.

# WORLD REPORT

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## Deal on Gaza border strip sets stage for Sharon-Netanyahu battle

By LESLIE SUSSER

**J**ERUSALEM (JTA) — The agreement under which Egyptian forces will guard a perilous corridor along the border with the Gaza Strip could prove key to Ariel Sharon's future.

The success or failure of the agreement with Egypt goes to the heart not just of Sharon's Gaza withdrawal strategy but of his political leadership: Former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is highlighting the potential dangers of the agreement in a campaign, now moving into high gear, to unseat Sharon as Likud Party leader and as prime minister.

In a long-anticipated move, Netanyahu announced his candidacy to challenge Sharon on Tuesday, just weeks after resigning as finance minister, ostensibly to protest the Gaza withdrawal.

"Ariel Sharon has abandoned the Likud's principles and decided to take another route, the leftist route," Netanyahu told reporters and cheering party rebels who had broken with Sharon over the Gaza move. "He is threatening to destroy, with his own hands, the house that he helped build."

If weapons smuggling from Egypt across the Gaza border intensifies — and especially if the Palestinians use smuggled weapons to launch a new wave of terrorism from Gaza — Netanyahu is likely to make major political gains at Sharon's expense.

The Sharon-Netanyahu power struggle could come to a head sooner than expected after a Likud court ruled Monday, against Sharon's wishes, that the party's Central Committee will convene in late September to set a date for a leadership primary.

Most political pundits agree that the ruling has set in motion a dynamic that will lead to a split in the Likud, with Sharon leading a moderate wing out of the party rather than losing a leadership race to Netanyahu, who is well ahead in party leadership polls.

Two large questions are at issue between Sharon and Netanyahu over the agreement to allow Egyptian forces to patrol the 8.5-mile Philadelphia route along the Gaza-Egypt border: Will having Egyptians rather than Israelis guard the corridor lead to more or less terrorism? And will the beefed-up Egyptian presence serve as a bridgehead for more Egyptian forces in the Sinai Desert, forces that might eventually threaten Israel?

Sharon argues that Israel and Egypt have a common interest in preventing Gaza from becoming a terrorist base that could threaten both countries.

The Egyptians, Sharon says, probably will use their influence to prevent Gaza from becoming a jumping-off point for terrorist actions against them. That in turn will mean a weakening of terrorist militias working against Israel, he believes.

Sharon further says that the Philadelphia agreement specifically rules out any further Egyptian deployments in the Sinai. He notes that Israel specifically rejected an Egyptian proposal to deploy thousands more soldiers along the Israeli-Egyptian border south of Gaza down to the Red Sea port of Eilat.

Finally, Sharon argues, what alternatives did Israel have? Leaving a handful of Israeli soldiers exposed on the Philadelphia route would turn them into sitting ducks after the rest of the Israel Defense Forces leave Gaza

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NEWS  
ANALYSIS

## ■ *Netanyahu cites the Gaza withdrawal as his reason for challenging Sharon*

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— and could allow Palestinians and others to argue that Israel hasn't fully withdrawn from the coastal strip.

Netanyahu argues that by allowing regular Egyptian army forces on the border with Gaza, Israel has created a precedent for a much larger Egyptian deployment in Sinai, no matter what the agreement says. His supporters claim that for the tactical value of preventing smuggling into Gaza, Israel has given up one of the biggest strategic gains of its 1979 peace agreement with Egypt: a fully demilitarized Sinai Peninsula as a buffer between the Israeli and Egyptian armies.

Netanyahu's immediate concern, however, is that Gaza will become a huge base for Palestinian and international terrorism. He maintains that the same logic behind the Gaza withdrawal and the invitation to Egyptian forces to patrol the border also will compel Israel to allow a seaport and airport in Gaza, enabling the Palestinians to bring in heavy weapons and explosives unimpeded.

"Sharon's decision to place Israel's security in the hands of Egypt instead of the IDF is another mistake that gives a tail wind to terror," Netanyahu declared after the Cabinet approved the agreement on the Philadelphia route Sunday.

The agreement is highly detailed: It allows the Egyptians to deploy 750 border police, 504 machine guns, 94 pistols, 44 jeeps, 31 armored personnel carriers, eight helicopters without spy cameras and three radar systems. Egypt will not be allowed

to supply weapons to the Palestinians without prior Israeli approval. The multinational force that has been stationed in Sinai since the Israeli-Egyptian peace deal will monitor Egypt's compliance with the restrictions.

The argument over the Philadelphia route hints at the coming bitter struggle between Sharon and Netanyahu. Personal and ideological differences between the two men seem irreconcilable, and a torrent of harsh words make it unlikely that they can remain in the same party.

In announcing his challenge Tuesday, Netanyahu declared that Sharon was not worthy to be prime minister, that he had abandoned Likud ideology and that corruption under his rule was rife.

The night before, in a pre-emptive 45-minute television interview, Sharon characterized Netanyahu as a man who flees from responsibility and doesn't have the nerves to lead a country like Israel.

"In any stressful situation, he immediately panics and loses his cool," Sharon said.

Sharon also dropped several hints that he wouldn't stay around to lose to Netanyahu: He will not be Netanyahu's No. 2; the Likud had been infiltrated by far-right elements and is not the same party it had been; and he still had work to do as prime minister, Sharon said.

A political analyst for the Ma'ariv newspaper, Nadav Eyal, quotes Sharon aides as saying that the dynamic started by Netanyahu, leading to a Central Com-

mittee move in late September to oust an incumbent prime minister, will be the perfect backdrop for Sharon to establish a new political party. Analysts have spoken of a "big bang" of Israeli politics, under which

Sharon would take moderate members of Likud into a new party formed with the secular Shinui Party and centrist elements of Labor.

"The Likud Central Committee, perhaps one of the most hated bodies in Israel, sacking one of the most popular prime ministers because he took Israel out of Gaza, will

be a dream start for a new party," Eyal writes, paraphrasing the aides.

Sharon can't afford to run against Netanyahu and lose: It would taint any subsequent decision to leave to start a new party, and would make it far more difficult for Sharon to take other leading Likudniks with him.

Pundits therefore believe he'll make his decision soon, probably when he returns from the opening of the United Nations General Assembly in New York in mid-September.

In any event, the Philadelphia route agreement and the Gaza pullout will be high on the agenda of the Sharon-Netanyahu showdown, whether it takes place inside or outside Likud. What happens on the ground in Gaza over the next few months could well decide who Israel's next prime minister will be, and what comes next on the Israeli-Palestinian track. ■

*(JTA correspondent Dan Baron in Jerusalem contributed to this report.)*

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**Benjamin Netanyahu**  
Former Israeli Prime Minister

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## France to honor Dreyfus

PARIS (JTA) — France will issue a postage stamp commemorating the 100th anniversary of the exoneration of Alfred Dreyfus.

A Jewish captain in the French army, Dreyfus was wrongfully convicted of treason in 1894 in a trial renowned for the anti-Semitism it exposed in France.

After serving five years on Devil's Island off the coast of South America,

Dreyfus was pardoned in late 1899 by the president of France as a result of massive intervention in the media, and was permitted to return to Paris.

It was not until 1906, however, that his name was officially cleared and all charges dismissed.

The founder of modern Zionism, Theodor Herzl, cited the Dreyfus trial as a major motivation behind his support for a Jewish state. ■

# S. African Jewish group helps terror survivors

By MOIRA SCHNEIDER

CAPE TOWN (JTA) — For the past four years, Divote, an initiative of the South African Jewish community, has been bringing help and happiness into the lives of young Israelis affected by terrorism.

Now the group's efforts have been recognized with an invitation to the home of Israel's president, Moshe Katsav, where group officials attended a bar/bat mitzvah party for 70 children who have been orphaned, mostly by terror attacks.

Divote originated in the coastal city of Durban and has now spread countrywide, with additional branches in Australia and the United States.

Speakers at the July 14 event warmly acknowledged the contribution of the South African Jewish community. Divote presented each child with a portable CD player, as well as a disposable camera and photograph album to enable them to "create their own memories of this special day in their lives," said Divote's coordinator, Cheryl Unterslak.

A few days later, Divote held a party for

56 other children affected by terror at the Netanya municipality offices.

They were given backpacks full of gifts, which included clothing, toys, stationery and jewelry donated by members of the South African Jewish community as well as by Christians from the Cape Town branch of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem.

Unterslak says the touching thing is that some of the gifts were given by people who are "so poor but have embraced the project and have been so grateful to have had the opportunity to give."

She noted that while she experienced a lot of religious "separation" in Israel, that was not the case at both parties. "It didn't matter if you were Satmar, haredi or secular — everybody was together," she said, using phrases for two different types of fervently Orthodox Judaism.

The group has broadened the scope

of its activities to show solidarity with other Israeli children in need. And while there is much division in the country over the Gaza disengagement plan, Unterslak experienced a "very powerful moment" when delivering gifts to the Hadassah University Hospital's pediatric cancer ward in Jerusalem.

"There were two Haredi fathers there, a Palestinian mother, an Israeli Arab, a secular Jew — what was unbelievable was standing there and watching how suffering

is such an equalizer. Everybody was helping everybody else's child. It didn't matter what they were."

In addition, Divote treated several needy families to a special evening out at a restaurant. It also arranged for many children of families affected by terrorism to attend summer camp, as well as to take arts and crafts courses and rap-music lessons. The group also paid the children's entry fees to swimming pools. ■

**A group is honored by attending a party at the residence of Israel's president.**

## AROUND THE JEWISH WORLD

# Teachers in S. Africa learn about Holocaust, apartheid

By MOIRA SCHNEIDER

CAPE TOWN (JTA) — Educators in a country that confronted its own racist past recently learned new ways to teach about Nazi racism in the nation's schools.

A four-day seminar for educators was held Aug. 1-4 at the initiative of the Cape Town Holocaust Centre, in consultation with South Africa's national department of education.

Facilitated by Stephen Feinberg, the national outreach director for the education division of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, "Understanding Social Darwinism, Race, Eugenics and Human Rights" attracted more than 60 curriculum advisers, administrators, education managers and teachers.

The subject forms part of the new 11th-grade history curriculum, which examines how social Darwinism, race and eugenics motivated Nazi ideology and also partially influenced apartheid ideology.

The moral and ethical issues that arose out of the Holocaust are also being taught as part of a separate school curriculum for students in grades 10, 11 and 12.

Feinberg conducts educational programs throughout the United States, and through his association with the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, he has worked in several European countries.

Feinberg is full of praise for the work being done at the South African center and the quality of the local seminar participants,

who came from seven of the country's nine provinces.

"I think that the teachers here in South Africa are extraordinary," he says. "They are asking questions and raising issues about this history within the context of South Africa's past in a very constructive, positive way. I think their experience under apartheid has made them more understanding of the similarities and, more importantly, the differences between the history of apartheid and the history of the Holocaust."

He adds: "I think that in the 21st century, a lot more emphasis is being placed on helping people develop moral compasses.

"After all, of the 14 people who attended the Wannsee Conference to implement the Final Solution, seven of them had Ph.D.s. Therefore you ask yourself a question: Is education enough? Is there something more than education in educating about the Holocaust?"

Pam Bernardo, a history teacher at the Ned Doman High School in the Cape Town suburb of Athlone, which was once a town for mixed-race South Africans, says she learned a different way of approaching the Holocaust in the classroom through her participation in the seminar.

"We all know about Adolf Hitler and Nazi atrocities, but what bothered me is how neighbors could be blinded or choose to be blinded, could allow the kind of evil that occurred. Ordinary people were neighbors to Jews, and ordinary people turned away and allowed these things to happen. I was more horrified by just how you and I could do that." ■

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### NORTH AMERICA

#### Synagogue bomber sentenced

A man who fire-bombed an Oklahoma synagogue was sentenced to 39 years in jail.

Sean Gillespie, who was sentenced Tuesday, was found guilty earlier this year of throwing a Molotov cocktail at Temple B'nai Israel in Oklahoma City in April 2004.

The act caused only minor damage to the temple. Gillespie, a former member of the Aryan Nations, made the Nazi salute as the judge left the court, The Associated Press reported.

#### Groups want to help Darfur refugees

Jewish groups launched an initiative to help Sudanese refugees living in the African country of Chad.

The initiative launched by the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society and the Israel Forum for Humanitarian Aid, or IsraAid, seeks to help an estimated 200,000 refugees who fled to Chad to avoid government-sponsored violence in their home region of Darfur, Sudan.

The initiative has received support from IsraAid coalition members B'nai B'rith, the American Jewish Committee and Ve'ahava, the Canadian Jewish Humanitarian and Relief Committee.

The initiative is aimed at improving the refugees' conditions and preparing them to go on with their lives.

#### Wartime criminal loses citizenship

A man lost his citizenship for lying about his participation in the rounding up of Ukrainian Jews during World War II.

Osyf Firischak, 86, could be deported under Tuesday's decision.

Firischak helped round up Jews in the city of Lvov in August 1942, part of an action in which 100,000 Jews in the city were rounded up in 1942 and 1943.

Firischak lied about his activities when he applied for immigration to the United States in 1949.

#### Lawmaker concerned about Air Force guidelines

A U.S. lawmaker said he is concerned that new guidelines for religious tolerance in the Air Force will "turn commanders into sensitivity police."

Rep. Tom Tancredo (R-Colo.) sent a letter Wednesday to the Air Force's legislative liaison, saying he found the new guidelines troubling because a recent study found no overtly religious discrimination in the service.

"Given that military commanders are already faced with numerous responsibilities, I sincerely hope that implementation of the guidelines will not transform commanders into sensitivity police who are preoccupied with the individual prayer habits of servicemen — some of whom may be in harm's way," Tancredo wrote to Maj. Gen. Scott Custer.

The new regulations were announced Monday after reports of evangelizing and an overtly Christian atmosphere at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo.

### MIDDLE EAST

#### Fugitive settler caught

Israeli police captured a West Bank settler leader sought for assaulting a Palestinian.

Ivri Ran, a ring leader of the maverick West Bank settler group known as the "hilltop youth," was arrested Wednesday in the northern Israeli city of Tiberias.

He had been at large for months, after ducking house arrest

imposed on him for allegedly assaulting a Palestinian farmer.

It was not immediately clear if police would seek jail time for Ran, who lives near the West Bank settlement of Itamar.

#### Ex-Iraqi Jews want compensation

Iraqi Jewish leaders from around the world will demand compensation from the Iraqi government for lost assets.

Meetings have been scheduled for Sept. 18-19 in London to discuss the issue of compensation for Jews who fled Arab countries during and after the creation of the State of Israel and were forced to leave behind their assets, the Jerusalem Post reported.

While the ex-Iraqi Jews don't believe the current Iraqi government will compensate them, they hope the demand at least can serve as a bargaining chip in future peace talks over compensation for Palestinian refugees who fled during Israel's 1948 War of Independence.

#### Israeli troops lack protection

Too few Israeli soldiers are issued with bulletproof vests, an internal report found.

The State Comptroller's Report on Israel's security apparatus, issued Wednesday, took the army to task for equipping no more than 40 percent of its combat troops with body armor capable of stopping rifle bullets.

Other soldiers get outdated flak jackets which provide inadequate protection, comptroller Micha Lindenstrauss wrote.

#### Rabin musical opens

A musical about the life of Yitzhak Rabin opened in Tel Aviv. This week's debut of "He Who Dreamed," attended by relatives of the slain Israeli prime minister, received mixed reviews.

Yediot Achronot called it "insufferable kitsch," but Ma'ariv argued that the musical gave a fair portrayal of Rabin's life.

With the 10th anniversary of Rabin's assassination coming up in November, a slew of commemorative events is planned.

### WORLD

#### British task force appointment blasted

British Jewish groups criticized the appointment of a controversial Muslim scholar to a government task force on Islamic fanaticism.

Professor Tariq Ramadan, banned from the United States and France due to his alleged sympathies for Islamist violence, will sit on the working group on tackling extremism, the Guardian reported.

The 13-member body, which also includes a Muslim legislator and community leaders, is due to present its findings on how to prevent domestic terror and combat radicalism in September, following the July 7 bombings in London.

The Community Security Trust, a body monitoring threats to British Jewry, already has criticized another reported appointment, that of Inayat Bunglawala of the Muslim Council of Britain umbrella group, who has made allegations of undue Jewish influence in the media.

#### Jailed tycoon wants to run for office

Mikhail Khodorkovsky, the jailed Russian oil tycoon with Jewish roots, said he would run for Parliament.

In a statement on his Web site, Khodorkovsky said he would run for a seat in a special election this fall, The Associated Press reported.

The former head of the Yukos oil firm, Khodorkovsky recently was sentenced to nine years in prison for tax evasion, fraud and embezzlement.

His supporters claim the case against him is politically motivated.