



IN THE NEWS

Police cleared in riot killings

Police involved in the killing of 12 Israeli Arabs during pro-Palestinian riots were cleared of criminal charges.

The Israeli Justice Ministry said Sunday that there was insufficient evidence to indict any police personnel in connection with the October 2000 shootings, which put a major strain on racial relations in the Jewish state.

According to the head of the ministry's Police Investigations Unit, the families of Arab youths shot dead during confrontations in the Galilee refused to cooperate with the probe, making it impossible to assign guilt for the killings.

Israeli-Arab lawmakers decried the ministry's decision, saying they might try to sue police officers in international courts.

Sharon contests New York Times report

Ariel Sharon contested a report that he had threatened to disrupt Palestinian elections if Hamas is allowed on the ballot.

Addressing U.S. Jewish officials in New York City on Sunday, the Israeli prime minister said his comments to the New York Times had been misconstrued.

"It's not that we are not going to let them have elections, but we will not provide them with any support" if the Palestinian Authority does not disarm Hamas and if the terrorist group's charter, which calls for Israel's destruction, is not altered, Sharon told members of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Sharon further said that he views the Palestinians' ability to maintain control in Gaza as a test of their ability to govern.

"That's where they are going to be checked, if they can run a country or if they can't run a country," he said.

WORLD REPORT

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

Musharraf sets conditions for ties to Israel, but appearance is historic

By CHANAN TIGAY

NEW YORK (JTA) — It was a remarkable sight: the president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan sitting on a New York dais alongside leaders of the American Jewish community and Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, eating a kosher dinner beneath a blue-and-white banner reading "Council for World Jewry."

It was all the more notable considering the significant personal risk the appearance must have entailed for Pervez Musharraf, who has been the subject of several recent assassination attempts at the hands of Muslim extremists who are violently anti-Israel and anti-America.

And indeed, there was near-unanimous agreement among Jews and Pakistanis at Saturday night's event that Musharraf's mere presence before an audience of Jewish officials represented a potentially historic step in Muslim-Jewish relations.

For his landmark gesture, the Pakistani general received a series of standing ovations.

"I would never have imagined that a Muslim, a president of Pakistan and, more than that, a man in uniform would ever get such a warm reception from the Jewish community," Musharraf said as he ascended the platform to excited applause.

Beyond the novelty of the appearance, however, Musharraf's half-hour speech met with disappointment from some Jewish leaders who found his remarks rich in hyperbole but poor in specific proposals.

"If we waited 100 years" to hold this meeting "it would have been even more historic, but what is it we have achieved?" asked Abra-

ham Foxman, the national director of the Anti-Defamation League. "In his world, in his culture, in his environment, this is a major step. From our perspective, it isn't."

Norman Liss, an attorney and a member of the American Jewish Congress' executive committee, was less circumspect.

"Zero progress," he said before the applause had died down, noting that Musharraf said little beyond earlier comments about establishing relations with Israel — providing Israel takes a series of steps and a Palestinian state is established.

Musharraf's address followed closely on the heels of his brief encounter last week with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon on the sidelines of the United Nations World Summit and a recent meeting between the foreign ministers of the two countries, which do not have full diplomatic ties.

Still, said Jack Rosen, the chairman of the AJCongress — whose Council for World Jewry sponsored the event — given Musharraf's domestic political constraints, Jews should not have exaggerated what he was able to offer.

"It is not helpful for us to be critical of a Muslim leader who, given his political pressures, comes to speak to us and doesn't give us everything we want at that moment in time," Rosen told JTA on Sunday. "We couldn't have expected that he would have announced last night that he would immediately begin normalizing relations with Israel. It wasn't a real expectation."

Challenged by Foxman to show more leadership by moving to formalize Israeli-Pakistani relations right away, Musharraf responded that "57 years of hatred, bitterness,

Continued on page 2

BEHIND
THE
HEADLINES

■ *Musharraf: Ties after Palestinian state is formed*

Continued from page 1
animosity cannot be undone so fast.”

“It is my sincere judgment that this is not the time to do it,” he said. “We need to be very patient. I need some more reasons and rationale. I need some more support” to be able to convince the Pakistani people to go along with the move.

Musharraf spoke about religious similarities between Muslims and Jews and characterized recent hostility between the two groups as an aberration against a background of historical coexistence. He further earned plaudits for insisting that terrorism “cannot be condoned for any cause.”

While he referred to “Schindler’s List” and praised Sharon for the recent Gaza Strip withdrawal, Musharraf upset many in the audience by insisting that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a root cause of world terrorism and that Pakistan won’t forge diplomatic ties with Israel until the Palestinians have a state — essentially giving the Palestinians a veto over the entire process, several Jewish leaders noted afterward.

“Palestine has been at the heart of troubles in the Middle East,” he said. “I have no doubt whatsoever that any attempt to shy away or ignore the root causes of terrorism is shutting ones eyes to reality and is a sure recipe for failure.”

That sentiment struck a raw nerve among many Jews in the audience, who lamented that Muslim nations for too long have tried to lay the blame for many of the world’s ills on Israel.

“The root cause of terrorism is the same as the root cause of Nazism: simply, the hatred of Jews through teaching hatred

of Jews,” said Morton Klein, the president of the Zionist Organization of America.

Musharraf also called on Israel to withdraw from the West Bank and respect other faiths’ attachment to Jerusalem. He did not express any corresponding demands on the Palestinian side.

“Israel must come to terms with geopolitical reality and let justice prevail for the Palestinians,” Musharraf said. “They want their own independent state, and they must get it.”

Since the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Pakistan has had something of an image problem in the West.

Daniel Pearl, a Jewish reporter for The Wall Street Journal, was kidnapped and decapitated by terrorists in Pakistan; Osama bin Laden is thought to be in hiding somewhere along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border; a Pakistani nuclear scientist was discovered to have supplied nuclear technology to Iran, Libya and North Korea; and Pakistan’s extensive network of religious schools has been accused of spreading a radically violent and anti-Western version of Islam.

Many in the audience thus saw Musharraf’s decision to address a Jewish audience as a public-relations move rather than the reflection of a serious desire for detente.

Like many in the Muslim world, Musharraf views the American Jewish community as key to securing political influence along the Beltway, some said.

Musharraf didn’t do much to dispel this impression.

“I feel privileged to be speaking to so many members of what is probably the most distinguished and influential community in the United States,” he said.

But Mossadaq Chughtai, the director of the Pakistani American Liaison Center, which runs the Congressional Pakistan Caucus, dismissed this line of thinking.

“We have good standing with Congress” and the White House, he said, noting that President Bush has hosted Musharraf at Camp David. “Not as good as AIPAC, but we’re making strides,” Chughtai said, referring to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

Still, many considered the symbolism of the event significant. Unlike Palestinian leaders, who often have made conciliatory statements to foreign leaders in English while urging their constituents to war in Arabic, Musharraf spoke before a full contingent of Pakistani media beaming his words back home, where they are likely to be controversial.

For Dr. Abdul Rehman, an officer of the MMSI mosque in Staten Island, N.Y., Musharraf’s appearance gives

the “green light” to Muslims to work toward cooperation and dialogue with Jews.

“This gives us the credibility to go out and speak,” he said.

Berel Lazar, one of Russia’s chief rabbis, thought Musharraf was “very sincere” and praised him for not making grand promises that he would not be able to fulfill.

“There’s no question he will have a hard time explaining to his people what he’s doing and trying to bring them along,” Lazar said. “On the other hand, he didn’t give any kind of time frame” for normalizing ties with Israel.

At the least, the event led to immediate inter-religious dialogue in the hallways: Lazar was seen chatting and posing for photos with Imam Ghulam Rasul of the MMSI mosque and invited mosque leaders to visit him if they’re in Moscow.

Other Jewish leaders also made small talk with Pakistanis in attendance, and Pakistani television reporters pulled Israelis and American Jews aside for interviews to be broadcast in Pakistan.

“I think the event was very significant,” said Malcolm Hoenlein, the executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. “The fact that it took place; the president of Pakistan met with Jewish leaders and it was broadcast to his home country. Was it everything everybody wanted to hear? Probably not.

“I still think it was a very important event and something that hopefully can be built upon.”

(JTA Managing Editor Michael Arnold contributed to this report.)

‘I would never have imagined that a Muslim, a president of Pakistan and, more than that, a man in uniform would ever get such a warm reception from the Jewish community.’

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf

JTA WORLD REPORT

Howard E. Friedman

President

Mark J. Joffe

Executive Editor and Publisher

Lisa Hostein

Editor

Michael S. Arnold

Managing Editor

Lenore A. Silverstein

Finance and Administration Director

Noa Artzi-Weill

Marketing Director

JTA WORLD REPORT is published five days a week, except holidays, by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Inc., 330 Seventh Ave., New York, N.Y. 10001-5010. For more information about how to subscribe by e-mail, fax or regular mail, call (212) 643-1890, or visit our Web site at www.jta.org.
© JTA. Reproduction only with permission.

THIS WEEK**MONDAY**

■ The World Organization of Jewish Community Centers holds a global conference in Haifa through Thursday. Over 250 presidents and executive directors of Jewish community centers from 35 countries will attend.

■ Howard Dean, Democratic National Committee chairman, heads a delegation of Democrats on a week-long tour of Israel.

■ The International Atomic Energy Agency, the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog, meets in Vienna to consider referring Iran to the Security Council for concealing plans to manufacture nuclear weapons. A stinging IAEA report last month all but urged such a referral.

■ The American Zionist Movement's biennial conference, in Washington, focuses on terrorism and what happens now that Israel has left the Gaza Strip.

TUESDAY

■ Representatives of the "Quartet" meet in New York to discuss the region after Israel's Gaza withdrawal. James Wolfensohn, the Quartet's chief envoy, will brief representatives on what economic assistance the Palestinians need.

WEDNESDAY

■ The Republican Jewish Coalition celebrates its 20th anniversary in Washington. President Bush will address the group.

■ Jordan's King Abdullah II addresses more than 80 rabbis in Washington. His talk on "Judaism and Islam — Beyond Tolerance" is part of a campaign to promote reconciliation among the major faiths.

THURSDAY

■ Motions are due in an Alexandria, Va., court in the U.S. government's espionage case against two former senior officials of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee and a former Pentagon Iran analyst.

■ President Clinton addresses a retirement dinner in Washington, hosted by the Yitzhak Rabin Center for Israel Studies, for Morton Bahr, who served 20 years as president of the Communications Workers of America.

FRIDAY

■ President Bush awards the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest civilian honor, to Tibor Rubin in a White House ceremony. A Holocaust survivor, Rubin is to be recognized for his heroism during the Korean War.

SATURDAY

■ United For Peace and Justice, a coalition of anti-war groups, launches a three-day campaign in Washington against the Iraq war that is expected to have a pro-Palestinian component. The Shalom Center, a Philadelphia-based group also opposed to the war, will run a separate Shabbat service for peace in Washington.

SUNDAY

■ The Sixth and I historic synagogue in Washington launches the "Jews of Color" photographic exhibit.

Bush pushes for faith-based aid

By **RON KAMPEAS**

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Spearheading massive federal assistance to rebuild areas hit by Hurricane Katrina, President Bush wants the faith-based community to play a role as well.

His first stop: U.S. Jews.

Addressing the culminating event Sept. 14 of Celebrate 350, the coalition commemorating 350 years of Jewish life in America, Bush outlined the critical role Jews play in galvanizing faith-based giving in the United States.

"Jewish Americans have made countless contributions to our land," Bush said to an appreciative audience that packed the cavernous National Building Museum. "The prophet Jeremiah once called out to his nation, 'Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf.'"

While paying heed — to applause — to the principle of church-state separation, Bush said there's a place for faith-based giving as well.

"Men and women throughout our history have acted on the words of Scripture, and they have made America a better, more hopeful place," he said. "At this moment,

volunteers from all walks of life across our great land are helping the good folks of Alabama and Mississippi and Louisiana recover from one of the worst natural disasters in our nation's history. The outpouring of compassion is phenomenal. American Jewish organizations have already raised over \$10 million, plus the \$50,000 tonight, for the victims of Hurricane Katrina."

Bush's speech at the Jewish event appeared to be a dress rehearsal for his speech to the nation the following night, in which he peppered his announcement of federal aid for the afflicted region with appeals for faith-based giving.

"It is the armies of compassion — charities and houses of worship and idealistic men and women — that give our reconstruction effort its humanity," Bush said in a Sept. 15 speech from New Orleans.

Launching his appeal for faith-based giving with a speech to Jewish groups was unusual: Many Jewish groups object to the specifics of Bush's faith-based program-

ming, concerned that there are few prescriptions that would prevent federal money from going to groups that discriminate by religion in hiring and that proselytize.

Still, the Jewish community agrees broadly with the president about the role of faith groups in helping those in need. That, coupled with the unusually close relationship Bush enjoys with the U.S. Jewish leadership, guaranteed him a warm reception.

The speech came after a tour of the historic Sixth and I synagogue in downtown Washington and an examination of a Torah scroll there that survived the Holocaust.

The speech itself was laced with nuanced references to American Jewish history. Bush noted Asher Levy's insistence in the 17th century on joining the New Amsterdam Citizens Guard — despite its proscription against Jews — calling Levy "the first of many Jewish Americans who have proudly

worn the uniform of the United States."

The popular misconception that Jews are under-represented in the armed forces has long frustrated Jewish veterans' groups.

Bush also announced plans to award the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest civilian honor, to Cpl. Tibor Rubin, a Holocaust survivor who

enlisted in the U.S. Army and fought in the Korean War.

Rubin's smuggling of food and medical supplies in a POW camp during the Korean War is credited with saving more than 40 lives. He is to receive the medal in a White House ceremony this Friday.

Bush, who met earlier in the day with Ariel Sharon at the United Nations, called the Israeli prime minister "a man of courage, a man of peace" for the recent pullout from the Gaza Strip. The president also condemned the destruction of Gaza synagogues by Palestinians following the withdrawal.

The Celebrate 350 chairman, Robert Rifkind, gave Bush the coalition's commemorative medal.

This Wednesday, Bush was to address a luncheon marking the 20th anniversary of the Republican Jewish Coalition, rounding out an unusual week with two Jewish speeches. The sold-out event, drawing about 500 people, was to be simulcast to RJC chapters across the United States and in Israel. ■

'Jewish Americans have made countless contributions to our land.'

President Bush

NEWS IN BRIEF

MIDDLE EAST

Al-Qaida in Gaza

Al-Qaida has a presence in the Gaza Strip, a Hamas official said. "Yes, it is true what they say. A couple of men from Al-Qaida infiltrated into Gaza," Hamas chief Mahmoud Al-Zahar told the Italian newspaper *Corriere Della Sera* last week. Zahar added that Palestinians had also been in touch with Al-Qaida by telephone but did not say whether he was referring to members of Hamas.

Israel's decision to turn over security on Gaza's southern border to Egypt last week stoked fears that the strip could be flooded with arms and terrorists, as Egypt allowed Palestinians to flow across the border without any checks or control.

Thousands of weapons, including anti-aircraft missiles and ground-to-ground rockets, were smuggled across the border, Israeli officials say.

Lost trekkers found

Six Israelis who went missing in Bolivia were safely recovered.

The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem said Sunday that the six backpackers, who got lost on a jungle trek earlier this month, were located over the weekend by insurance investigators dispatched to the South American country from Israel.

Petition for Gazan prisoners

Israel's High Court of Justice was asked to order the release of Palestinian security prisoners from the Gaza Strip.

According to a High Court petition filed Sunday by the Israeli-Arab lawmaker Ahmed Tibi, the Fourth Geneva Convention requires that Israel, having quit Gaza, free all residents of the territory taken prisoner as part of a political conflict.

WORLD

Ukraine seeks end to trade law

Ukraine's president sought American Jewish support for efforts to graduate from American trade restrictions.

In a Sept. 15 meeting in New York, NCSJ: Advocates on Behalf of Jews in Russia, Ukraine, the Baltic States and Eurasia told Viktor Yushenko that they would support Ukraine's graduation from the Jackson-Vanik amendment, trade restrictions imposed on former Soviet countries based on their treatment of Jews and other human-rights issues.

NCSJ Executive Director Mark Levin said American Jewish leaders were grateful for the Ukrainian government's fast response to several recent anti-Semitic incidents, and have asked Yushenko to cut remaining ties with anti-Semitic groups.

Report: Extremists on British campuses

Extremist Muslim groups are active on university campuses throughout Britain, according to a new report.

More than 30 places of higher education are named in the study by Anthony Glees, director of Brunel University's Centre for Intelligence and Security Studies, as having been infiltrated by "extremist and/or terror groups."

The report also detailed far-right and animal-rights groups.

London, Jerusalem police chiefs meet

London's police chief was briefed on counter-terrorist measures by Israel's top cop.

London police commissioner James Hart, accompanied by his senior counter-terrorism officer and the New York Police Department liaison in Israel, met with Moshe Karadi in Jerusalem.

The group discussed the July 7 bombings on London's public transport system, which killed 52 people, and heard lectures about the political situation in the Middle East.

Hart also was advised on how to deal properly with the media in the aftermath of a terror attack.

Prince Harry apologizes for Nazi outfit

Britain's Prince Harry said his decision to wear a Nazi uniform to a costume party earlier this year was "a sign of my own immaturity."

In an interview to mark his 21st birthday, the prince apologized once more for the incident — in the run-up to 60th anniversary commemorations of the liberation of Auschwitz — when he was snapped in an outfit complete with swastika armband.

"Looking back on it now, it was a very stupid thing to do, and I've learnt my lesson," he said.

Israel top four U.S. ally

A recent poll found that Americans consider Israel one of the top four U.S. allies.

The Harris Interactive poll, released Sept. 14, found that Israel was deemed a close ally by 41 percent of respondents.

The only countries to fare better were Great Britain, Canada and Australia.

APCs on hold

Russia suspended a plan to supply the Palestinian Authority with 50 armored vehicles. Diplomats in Moscow said Friday that the decision was linked to chaos in the Gaza Strip following the Israeli withdrawal.

But Russia still is expected to go ahead with a plan announced by President Vladimir Putin in April to give the Palestinian Authority two transport helicopters.

Ethiopian Jews plan hunger strike

Falash Mura in Ethiopia announced plans for a three-day hunger strike to protest delays in bringing them to Israel. Some 20,000 Falash Mura, descendants of Jews who converted to Christianity but who now have returned to Jewish practice, remain in Ethiopia.

The Israeli government has pledged to bring the remaining members of the community, but progress on their aliyah has been slow.

NORTH AMERICA

Senate passes anti-Semitism resolution

The U.S. Senate passed a resolution urging the United Nations to fight anti-Semitism.

The measure, sponsored by Sen. Rick Santorum (R-Pa.), passed the Senate on Sept. 15 by unanimous consent.

A similar measure passed the U.S. House of Representatives earlier this year.

Rice praises Palestinians on withdrawal

Palestinians did a good job helping Israel withdraw from the Gaza Strip but now must focus on security, Condoleezza Rice said.

"The Palestinians did a very good job of helping to create a dignified circumstance for the Israelis to withdraw" by preventing attacks on soldiers and settlers, the U.S. secretary of state said in an interview with the editorial board of the *New York Post*. "They then were unable to control the combination of kind of exuberance on the one hand, which I think was both natural and genuine on the part of the population, and some political posturing by their adversaries."

Rice said P.A. President Mahmoud Abbas must fulfill his commitment to disarm Hamas and other terrorist groups, but suggested he needed time.