

## IN THE NEWS

## Israel says Hamas can't be in elections

Top Israeli leaders confirmed that they do not want Hamas to take part in Palestinian elections.

It's up to the Palestinians to "decide if they would like to have real elections," Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom told journalists in New York on Monday, noting that electoral gains by Hamas would "move us backward maybe 50 years."

On Sunday, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told members of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations that Israel wouldn't stop elections that include Hamas, but also would not provide any support — which would make it difficult for the Palestinians to proceed.

## After N. Korea, Israel eyes Iran

Israel welcomed North Korea's pledge to abandon its nuclear weapons program.

Yuval Steinitz, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, said after Pyongyang's announcement Monday that the West should bring similar pressure to bear on Iran to stop its quest for atomic arms.

## Sharon launches project for Ethiopians

Ariel Sharon endorsed a United Jewish Communities effort to bring the remaining Jews of Ethiopia to Israel.

The Israeli prime minister helped launch Operation Promise in a meeting last Friday with UJC leaders and supporters.

"I believe this must be a joint effort of Israel and the Jewish world," Sharon said. "It is our duty, and so it is your duty."

The program aims to raise \$160 million to aid the emigration of Ethiopian Jews and the mainstreaming of Ethiopians already in Israel, as well as provide assistance to struggling elderly Jews in the former Soviet Union and help strengthen Jewish identity among young Jews there.

# WORLD REPORT

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

## In effort to orient Jordan to West, Abdullah seeks aid of U.S. Jewry

By RON KAMPEAS

**W**ASHINGTON (JTA) — Jordan's king believes Jews can play a key role in his campaign to win back the Muslim street.

"The Amman message," initiated by Abdullah II, brought together scholars from the eight main streams of Islam in July to issue edicts that marginalize terrorists who purport to act in the name of Islam — particularly Al-Qaida and its leader, Osama bin Laden.

The next step is to bring the message to Jews and Christians, according to Joseph Lumbard, the young American Muslim hired by the king to coordinate outreach.

"We want to get beyond the idea of a clash of civilizations to a dialogue of civilizations," Lumbard said. "We would like to expand the term Judeo-Christian tradition to Judeo-Christian-Islamic tradition."

Abdullah and his Palestinian-born queen, Rania, met recently with Pope Benedict XVI and followed it up with a policy speech at Catholic University in Washington. This week, Abdullah is to speak on "Judaism and Islam: Beyond Tolerance" to more than 80 rabbis from around the United States gathered in Washington.

The speech will draw on Koranic verses and Jewish readings that counsel accommodation and respect for other monotheistic faiths.

More than any other Arab leader — and even more than his father, the late King Hussein — Abdullah has attached his fate to the West. He has opened Jordanian markets and plans to introduce western democratic reforms.

Like his father, Abdullah also has fostered the only truly warm Arab-Israeli peace, and

he met with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon at the United Nations last Friday.

Coupled with a biography firmly rooted in the West — his mother is British and his schooling is American and British — these goals deny Abdullah the appeal among ordinary Arabs that many of his contemporaries have, despite his lineage: Hashemite kings are believed to be direct descendants of Mohammed.

Abdullah's solution is to use the Arab street's hardest vehicle — Islam — to move it toward his vision of moderation. The July assembly in Amman of 180 Islamic scholars from 45 countries concluded with 17 of the most senior scholars among them issuing religious edicts outlining two principles: Fatwas issued

by Muslims not formally trained in Islamic law are not legitimate; and Muslims must refrain from calling other Muslims apostates.

The two statements were clearly aimed at Al-Qaida and its leaders. Lumbard, a Cairo-based scholar who helped organize the summit, said the pedigree of the scholars at the Amman meeting lent heft to their fatwas in a way that multiple other efforts to moderate Islam — many of them stemming from Western capitals — could not.

Whether the effort resonates remains to be seen. Lumbard acknowledged that even those scholars, respected as they are, have become remote from an Arab street succored by the Internet and satellite television. The next step, he said, was to compete in those fields with the radicals who advocate terrorism.

Abdullah, 43, places much stock in youth, since half of Jordan's population is 18 or younger. His first stop in the United States was a meeting with a group of high school

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BEHIND  
THE  
HEADLINES

## ■ *Abdullah looks to U.S. Jews to help tighten Jordan's relations with the West*

*Continued from page 1*

students from two Washington public schools in addition to the Hebrew Academy in Rockville, Md., and the Islamic Academy in Fairfax, Va.

Significantly, the most skeptical students at the gathering appeared to be Muslims from the Saudi-backed academy. When one young woman in a scarf expressed doubts that Abdullah's moderation reflected the Arab world's "general consensus," Queen Rania struggled for a response, and could cite only an outpouring of Arab sympathy for Americans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

By contrast, the Jewish students were clearly impressed.

"He's very courageous for taking such a message," said Moshe Broder, a senior at the Hebrew Academy. "He's a pioneer."

Abdullah will have to start at home, and that could be a problem. Creating change in Jordan's highly conservative and tribalized political culture has never been easy. A recent campaign against "honor killings" of women has had mixed results at best, and the royal court's embrace of peace with Israel is not shared by other Jordanian elites, never mind ordinary Jordanians.

The king will have to flex the kind of muscle his father occasionally did to overcome skeptics who see him as ensconced in the West, said Hiam Nawas, a Jordanian expert on political Islam.

"Abdullah will have to spend a fair amount of his own political capital if he wants his message to become authoritative in Jordan," she said.

One way to sell the moderation is to show that it brings results. Hence Abdullah's appeal in the West, simultaneous with his religious outreach, for expanded trade and political ties.

"Even as we work for peace, development must go forward," he said at the United Nations last week. "When developed nations commit to active, increased development support, they advance global progress for all. The world knows what is needed — fair trade, increased direct assistance, and debt relief."

That means persuading the West that Islam has a place alongside Judaism and Christianity as an equal. That's where Abdullah's current tour of the major faiths comes in.

He has some persuading to do. As welcome as the Amman summit was, it falls short of specifically addressing terrorist acts or of addressing the virulent strain of Islamic anti-Zionism that negates some fundamentals of Jewish and Israeli existence.

Marc Gopin, an Orthodox rabbi and a religion professor at George Mason University in Virginia who has helped organize Abdullah's address to rabbis, says Jews

should see the July fatwas as a crucial first step in marginalizing extremism.

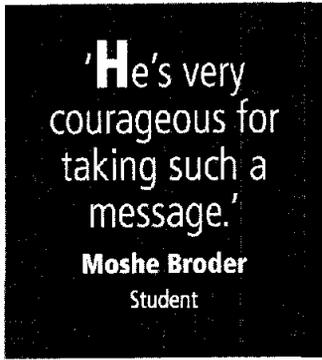
"This helps cut off terrorism's legs, because terrorism is based on fatwas," he said.

"That may be dissatisfying from the Israeli-Palestinian perspective, but it's an admirable goal and one we should support."

Adds Eric Yoffie, president of the Union for Reform Judaism, "We're encouraged by what he has been saying and doing. He's a model of what we would like to see elsewhere in the Middle East."

By reaching out to religious leaders, Abdullah also addresses a facet of the conflict that diplomats often neglect, said Robert Eisen, who heads the religion department at George Washington University — that the men and women of the Middle East viscerally see the conflict as not just about borders but about beliefs. The king could demonstrate that the language of religion is as much a basis for reconciliation as for conflict, he said.

"Jews and Muslims share common moral values that should allow us to find common ground to fight the extremists in our religions," he said. ■



## Spanish police looking for ex-Nazi

By JEROME SOCOLOVSKY

MADRID (JTA) — A Spanish police unit is searching for one of the most-wanted Nazi war criminals.

A National Police spokesman said new evidence points to the possibility that Aribert Heim, 91, may be living undercover somewhere near the Mediterranean coastal city of Alicante.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center ranks Heim as the No. 2 most wanted Nazi war criminal, after Alois Brunner, an aide to Adolf Eichmann, the chief organizer of the "Final Solution."

During World War II, Heim murdered hundreds of people, largely via lethal injection, at the Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria.

Known as the "Butcher of Mauthausen," Heim also performed "medical experiments" in which he amputated body parts without painkillers to see how long

prisoners would live.

"He is a sadist, a murderer, a horrendous example of the perversion of medicine in the service of the Nazis," said Efraim Zuroff of the Wiesenthal Center's Jerusalem office.

"He's a little Mengele," Zuroff added, referring to the Auschwitz doctor known as the "Angel of Death."

Germany has offered a \$170,000 reward for Heim's arrest in the framework of Operation Last Chance — the Wiesenthal Center's new initiative to capture the last Nazi war criminals believed to be alive.

The Spanish police spokesman declined to elaborate on the new evidence regarding the whereabouts of Heim, whose family had claimed that he died years ago in Argentina.

However, the German magazine *Der Spiegel* reported that German police discovered money wires starting several years ago to a bank on Spain's coast that were picked up by a contact. ■

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REPORT

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JTA WORLD REPORT is published five days a week, except holidays, by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Inc., 330 Seventh Ave., New York, N.Y. 10001-5010. For more information about how to subscribe by e-mail, fax or regular mail, call (212) 643-1890, or visit our Web site at [www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org).  
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# No charges to be filed in Arab riots

By DAN BARON

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel has closed the book on one of the toughest episodes in its domestic history.

But for relatives of the 12 Arab citizens slain by police in the October 2000 riots, Sunday's decision not to press charges against any of the officers involved offered no closure.

The Justice Ministry's Internal Affairs Unit said it could not hope to put together successful indictments against the policemen alleged to have used excessive force against Israeli Arabs who went on a rampage in Galilee in solidarity with the Palestinians at the beginning of the intifada.

"Closing all of the cases is simply unavoidable, as some lack sufficient evidence, and in some because, to our regret, we have not managed to locate the responsible police officers," the internal affairs report said.

According to the chief investigator, Herzl Shviro, the riots — during which a Jewish motorist died after being hit by a rock thrown at his car and several other people were injured — were "on a scale unprecedented in the annals of the State of Israel."

The difficulties encountered in piecing together details of the skirmishes between dozens of armed police and thousands of Arab youths and men wielding slingshots and Molotov cocktails were compounded by a lack of cooperation from bereaved relatives.

"Most of the families refused to let us perform autopsies, which are vital for establishing which weapons fired which bullet and under what circumstances," Shviro told reporters.

"Given all this, in nine of the 13 cases we could not even settle on a likely suspect. In the other cases, we could not pursue prosecution, as evidence was still too scant."

To many Israeli Arabs, the Israeli police's handling of the riots expressed long-standing racial discrimination in the Jewish state. The Justice Ministry's findings did little to allay that feeling.

"Instead of bringing the evidence to light, the Internal Affairs Unit has taken part in a whitewash," said Hassan Asala, whose son Asil was one of the slain Arabs.

The sweeping conclusions of the criminal investigation strayed from a report issued by a High Court inquiry into the October riots, which criticized the police on several points, such as the order to send

in snipers against rioters who shut down major Galilee roads.

Shviro was unapologetic.

"A criminal probe by its nature has to be more discerning in gathering evidence than a state-appointed commission of inquiry," he said.

Rejecting the racism accusation, Shviro noted that the Internal Affairs Unit has brought about the indictment and conviction of at least two dozen civilian and paramilitary border policemen who have assaulted Palestinians.

The Justice Ministry decision is still to be discussed in the Knesset. It may also find its way abroad: Shauki Khatib, the chairman of the Arab Council Heads in Israel, said bereaved families could take their cases to an international court.

They may have to wait in line. Since retired Israeli army Gen. Doron Almog narrowly avoided arrest in London on war-

crimes allegations lodged by a British law firm on behalf of Palestinians, Britain has become the new focus of Jerusalem's legal woes.

The former Israeli military chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Moshe Ya'alon, canceled a recent fund-raising trip to Britain. Even Prime Minister Ariel Sharon may not be immune: Asked if he could guarantee that the

Israeli leader would not be arrested if he came to Britain, British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw sounded far from certain.

"I think so, although let me say these are all matters for the courts and not for me," Straw told BBC television.

Political sources said Sharon raised the issue with his British counterpart, Tony Blair, on the sidelines of last week's U.N. World Summit.

The problem centers on a British law that allows magistrates to issue arrest warrants on the basis of war-crimes allegations submitted by private individuals, with no government oversight. ■

Insufficient evidence is cited as why charges won't be filed against Israeli police in the deaths of 13 Israeli Arabs.

## Book: U.S. Jewish community diverse

By JOE ESKENAZI  
*j., the Jewish news weekly  
of Northern California*

SAN FRANCISCO (JTA) — Look at the Jew on your left. Look at the Jew on your right. OK, now look at two more Jews.

Odds are, one of you is "ethnically diverse."

That's the claim Gary Tobin makes in "In Every Tongue," a new book exploring racial and ethnic diversity within America's Jewish population. The San Francisco demographer maintains that perhaps 20 percent of the nation's Jews are Sephardi, Mizrahi, racial minorities or of mixed race.

"It's a big deal when you start translating it into the number of human beings," said Tobin, who co-wrote the book with his wife, Diane Tobin, and Scott Rubin.

Tobin, president of the Institute for Jewish & Community Research, always has been one of the most vocal critics of the massive 2000-01 National Jewish

Population Survey, claiming it systematically undercounted West Coast Jews and Israelis. In doing so, he added, the United Jewish Communities' survey missed vast numbers of ethnic Jews.

Tobin makes a conservative estimate of 200,000 Israelis in the United States, and believes as many as half of them might be all or part Sephardi or Mizrahi. He also believes many Jews of partially Sephardi heritage have been identified as solely Ashkenazi in past polls.

"You add it up and it's a surprisingly huge proportion. The difference between 10 or 12 percent and 20 percent is hundreds of thousands of people. In a Jewish community of only 6 million, that's a big deal," he said.

So where are these vast numbers of ethnic Jews hiding? Tobin laughs at that query, as it's "the same question federations and JCCs and other Jewish organizations ask about unaffiliated Jews out there: Where are they hiding? The answer is, they aren't hiding at all." ■

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## MIDDLE EAST

### Torah found in Morocco

A 300-year-old Torah was discovered recently in southern Morocco. The Torah was found inside the house of a Muslim family, the Jerusalem Post reported. The Torah will be flown to Israel.

### Israeli president goes to the Baltics

Israel's president made a landmark trip to the former Soviet Union. Moshe Katsav, who set off for a four-day visit Monday, is the first Israeli president hosted by Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

His itinerary includes laying a cornerstone for an Estonian synagogue and attending a Holocaust memorial in Latvia. Long a center of Jewish intellectual and religious life, the Baltics were hard-hit by the Holocaust.

### New U.S. envoy for Israel

The new U.S. envoy to Israel began work. Richard Jones, the former State Department adviser for Iraq policy, formally replaced Daniel Kurtzer as ambassador to the Jewish state Monday.

Jones previously served as ambassador to Kuwait, Kazakhstan and Lebanon.

### Bahrain wants to end Israel boycott

Bahrain said it would end its economic boycott of Israel. Ha'aretz reported that officials with the Persian Gulf country told U.S. officials that the boycott would soon be ended.

The report is the latest positive news to emerge regarding Israel's world standing since the withdrawal from the Gaza Strip.

## WORLD

### More E.U. aid for Palestinians

The European Union boosted its funding to the Palestinian Authority. E.U. officials in Brussels said Monday that the 25-nation bloc would increase its 2005 allotment to the Palestinians to more than \$340 million, around 17 percent more than originally planned.

The extra funds are intended to help reconstruction in the Gaza Strip, which Israel left this month.

The Palestinian Authority expects to receive an additional \$270 million in donations from individual E.U. member-states this year.

### Rabbinical dispute strikes Ukraine

A majority of Ukrainian rabbis blasted the election of a new chief rabbi as illegitimate.

More than 30 Chabad rabbis affiliated with the Federation of Jewish Communities, the region's largest Jewish group, issued a statement Sept. 15 saying that the election of another Chabad rabbi, Moshe Reuven Azman of Kiev, to serve as Ukraine's chief rabbi was "illegitimate" and "insulting to the feelings of every believer."

A chief rabbi "can be elected only by rabbis working in Jewish communities of that country," the statement said, referring to the fact that Azman's election Sept. 11 was endorsed by a group of secular Jewish leaders but not by any rabbinical authorities.

The vast majority of rabbis permanently working in Ukraine these days are Chabad rabbis affiliated with the federation.

Unlike other Orthodox rabbis working in Ukraine, Azman, who is Russian-born, is not affiliated with the Chabad-led federation.

### Poland honors Jewish official

The Polish president honored a Jewish official who is a Holocaust survivor.

Aleksander Kwasniewski presented Kalman Sultanik, president of the World Jewish Congress, with Poland's Commanders Cross of the Order of Service last Friday in New York City.

In his speech accepting the award, Sultanik, a member of JTA's board of directors, called on the Polish government to expedite restitution of Jewish properties that were confiscated during World War II and nationalized by Polish Communists after the war.

## NORTH AMERICA

### Nazi-hunting attorney dies at 60

Edward Stutman, a trial attorney at the U.S. Office of Special Investigations who successfully brought cases that revoked the citizenship of 13 Nazis, died at age 60.

Stutman, who served with OSI from 1992-2004, died Saturday in Washington of lymphoma, Eli Rosenbaum, the director of OSI, the Justice Department's Nazi-hunting unit, announced.

He was buried Monday in his native Philadelphia. Stutman traveled to remote areas of Russia to gather evidence and often faced long odds in making his case — but nevertheless he often won.

In 1999, Stutman launched a re-prosecution of John Demjanjuk, a decision termed "courageous" by The Washington Post, not least because an Israeli court had acquitted the Ukrainian native of being "Ivan the Terrible," a notorious mass murderer at Treblinka.

Under Stutman's prosecution, Demjanjuk could not shake the allegation that he had lied about being a Nazi death camp guard, and he was ordered deported from the United States this year.

### Jewish culture director leaves post

The executive director of an organization supporting Jewish arts and culture is stepping down, citing personal reasons.

Richard Siegel said he would leave the New York-based National Foundation for Jewish Culture in coming months to spend more time with his wife, Rabbi Laura Geller, who is a pulpit rabbi in the Los Angeles area.

Siegel, one of the editors of "The Jewish Catalog," a guide to Jewish community-building, has been with the foundation for 27 years, including 15 as its head.

### Halloween for Katrina relief

A Jewish girl in Iowa wants children across the United States to focus their Halloween trick-or-treating on Hurricane Katrina relief.

Talia Leman, 10, wants children all over the country to participate in T.L.C., which stands for "Trick-or-Treating for the Levee Catastrophe" by collecting quarters to send for Katrina relief.

Hy-Vee, a grocery store chain with 221 stores in seven states, has printed 8.5 million orange grocery bags with a message from Leman that can be used for trick-or-treating.

### Party kicks out candidate

A political party in New York booted one of its leaders for making anti-Semitic statements.

The Independence Party said comments by Lenora Fulani had hurt the party's credibility.

Fulani said earlier this year that Jews "had to sell their souls" for the State of Israel and had become "mass murderers of people of color" to keep it, comments that the party said were "phenomenally offensive." Fulani also has labeled Zionism "Jewish corporate nationalism."

The Independence Party is backing Mayor Michael Bloomberg in his re-election bid this year.