

## IN THE NEWS

## Hamas kills Israeli soldier

Hamas gunmen killed an Israeli soldier.

The soldier was shot dead Wednesday during an army raid on Jenin in which an Islamic Jihad terrorist was arrested.

Hamas claimed responsibility for the killing.

## Rabbi quits after reported sex sting

A official with an educational program for Jewish high school students resigned after allegedly being caught searching the Internet for liaisons with underage boys.

Rabbi David Kaye resigned Monday from the Washington-based Panim: The Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values, informing leaders that his story would appear Friday on "Dateline NBC."

Dateline's Chris Hansen told JTA that Kaye spoke in August in a chat room with an adult posing as an underage boy, sent him naked photos of himself and arrived at a Virginia home to meet the "boy," only to be confronted by Hansen.

Kaye served as vice president for programming at Panim.

Rabbi Sid Schwarz, Panim's founder and president, said he was shocked by the developments and that no complaints had ever been made against Kaye.

He said Kaye and all employees passed a "rigorous" set of reference checks before being hired. Kaye refused to comment Wednesday.

## Jewish Agency passes smaller budget

The Jewish Agency for Israel's governing body approved a 2006 budget of \$287 million, a decrease of \$4.3 million.

The budget, approved Wednesday in Jerusalem, fell from the previous year due to a drop in funds from overseas contributions.

The board of governors passed the budget unanimously but also made provisions for a larger budget if additional funds are raised.

# WORLD REPORT

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

## Libby Jewish? Some wonder how neocon's faith impacts leak scandal

By RON KAMPEAS

**W**ASHINGTON (JTA) — When Joshua Muravchik, perhaps the pre-eminent expert on the interventionist foreign policy that has become known as neoconservatism, was looking for non-Jewish neocons to prove that the movement isn't pervasively Jewish, he naturally included Lewis Libby.

"Non-Jews figuring prominently in current foreign-policy debates and today called neo-cons include Libby, (John) Bolton, American Enterprise Institute president Christopher DeMuth, and Gary Schmitt of the Project for the New American Century," Muravchik wrote in *Commentary* magazine two years ago.

"Go easy on me," Muravchik laughingly told a reporter this week, after it emerged that the man at the center of the White House leak scandal indeed is Jewish.

Libby resigned last Friday as Vice President Dick Cheney's chief of staff just hours after his indictment on perjury charges related to the leaking of the name of a CIA operative married to a prominent Bush administration critic.

Across the blogosphere, anti-Semitic and anti-Israel conspiracy theorists were quick to tie Libby's Jewishness to his role in selling the Iraq war, imagining once again a neocon cabal that has a singular agenda: promoting Israel at all costs.

"One more Jewish Neocon Traitor," headlined the White Civil Rights Web site, which features the writings of David Duke.

Yet the fact that many people in Washington — including neoconservatives — had no idea that Libby was Jewish underscores how tenu-

ous the Jewish-neocon link actually is, said Muravchik, a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute who is Jewish himself.

"One key measure of the falsity of the argument is that the non-Jewish neocons are equally pro-Israel as Jewish neocons," he said.

In addition to DeMuth, Schmitt and Bolton — who now is U.S. ambassador to the United Nations — prominent non-Jewish neocons include Bolton's predecessors Jeanne Kirkpatrick and Daniel Patrick Moynihan, former CIA

chief James Woolsey and former Education Secretary William Bennett.

Conversely, polls have found that a majority of American Jews embrace liberal and centrist views. Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts, last year's Democratic presidential candidate, won up to 77 percent of the Jewish vote.

Muravchik's mistake was one a lot of people have made. Two other prominent Jewish neoconservatives insisted to JTA last week that Libby was not Jewish.

Libby's Jewish profile at the White House was low, according to Jews who have worked with the administration. Other Jewish staffers knew he was Jewish, but he was not one of the highly identified Jews, such as Tevi Troy, the deputy assistant policy adviser to the president, or Joshua Bolten, director of the Office of Management and Budget.

The low profile was attributable in part to Libby's general reserve and to his closeness to power. After Karl Rove, Bush's top adviser, he was considered the most powerful unelected official in the White House.

Not all Jews who work in the White House likes to wear his identity on their sleeves,

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BEHIND  
THE  
HEADLINES

## ■ *Libby's name has already appeared on anti-Semitic Web sites*

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said Jay Footlik, the Clinton White House's liaison to the Jewish community.

"If they didn't choose to self-identify as a member of the community, if they didn't express a concern on a particular issue or ask to be a part of a meeting when a Jewish organization came into the White House, then we might have known they were Jewish, or we might not," Footlik said.

Some of the misapprehension apparently has to do with Libby's persona. His Andover prep school education; his nickname, "Scooter"; and the Jr. tacked onto the end of his full name as it appears in the federal directory — I. Lewis Libby Jr. — seem to indicate a non-Jewish background.

In fact, Libby, 55, for years has been a member of Temple Rodef Shalom in Falls Church, Va., a five-minute drive from his home in McLean, a wealthy suburb known for multimillion homes housing top lobbyists, lawyers and Bush administration officials.

Officials with the Reform movement and the synagogue were reluctant to discuss Libby's involvement. Acquaintances don't remember seeing him at shul, aside from High Holiday services.

Libby's membership in the Temple guide lists his wife, Harriet Grant, a former staffer for congressional Democrats, and two school-age kids.

"His name never even came up when talking about Jews in the administration, not even as part of the so-called neocon cabal," said one Reform official who asked not to be identified.

The Jewish Virtual Library, a Web site, listed Libby as Jewish, though its sourcing was unclear.

Libby's only other ostensible Jewish involvement was with the Republican Jewish Coalition, and only since he joined the Bush administration. He made an appearance at the RJC's 20th anniversary celebration last month.

Libby is known as a workaholic but he has a busy private life that could have kept him from spending much time on extracurricular Jewish activities. He's an avid skier; plays touch football on weekends and has written and published an erotically charged novel set in Japan.

A number of Jewish leaders told JTA they didn't think Libby's Jewishness would become a factor in the leak scandal that has obsessed Washington, but his name already appeared on numerous anti-Semitic Web sites long before JTA published an item over the weekend reporting his synagogue membership.

Muravchik said it's an old ploy to ascribe ulterior motives to neoconservatives having to do with the Jewish origins of some movement leaders.

"It's certainly a slur that has been repeated by people who are enemies of neoconservatives or who are enemies of Jews," he said.

The underlying argument is that the movement led the Bush administration into war with Iraq in hopes of protecting Israel. That argument ignores the low Jewish profile of many other Jewish neocons.

It also ignores the essentially American origins of a movement that seeks to spread democracy overseas.

The sympathy for Israel is simple, Muravchik said.

"It's a lone democracy in the Middle East, and it was a chief target of the Soviet bloc," opposition to which helped shape neoconservatism. "It was also the chief inspiration of dissent in the Soviet bloc at the time when there was very little in the 1970s."

Referring to a 1996 paper by three prominent Jewish neoconservatives that pressed Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's prime minister at the time, to engage against Iraq, Muravchik wrote in Commentary that it would "make more sense to say that, in preparing a paper for Netanyahu, they were trying to influence Israeli policy on behalf of American interests than the other way around. Indeed, most Israeli officials at that time viewed Iran, the sponsor of Hezbollah and Hamas, as a more pressing threat to their country than Iraq, and (then as later) would have preferred that it be given priority in any campaign against terrorism."

In an interview this week, Muravchik noted an emerging split between American neocons and members of Israel's ruling Likud Party over the movement's enthusiastic backing for President Bush's Middle East policies, particularly his support for Palestinian statehood.

"I've had numerous private and public exchanges on this topic with Likudniks and non-Likudniks who say, 'You Americans are nuts, you don't know these Arabs. We know them; the idea that they can resolve differences peacefully is hopelessly farfetched,'" Muravchik said. "I've been in rooms where Americans were talking about democracy for the Arabs, and Israelis were ridiculing it."

**Who knew that someone whose nickname is "Scooter" could be Jewish?**

## Jewish Dems thank Rice

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Three Jewish Democrats in Congress asked colleagues to sign a letter thanking Condoleezza Rice for helping advance Magen David Adom's cause at the International Red Cross.

The U.S. secretary of state has been instrumental in opening discussions to create the red diamond, a third, neutral symbol that non-Christian and non-Muslim nations can use in addition to the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

"Your personal engagement on this issue has been extremely important and is most appreciated," says the letter circulated by Reps. Eliot Engel and Gary Ackerman of New York and Henry Waxman of California.

Arab and Muslim nations have refused to recognize the red Star of David used by Magen David Adom, Israel's emergency response service, preventing it from joining the International Red Cross.

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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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# A new intifada — or the old one continuing?

By GIL SEDAN

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Those who believe that peace between Israel and the Palestinians is unattainable in the foreseeable future like to quote Moshe Dayan, a former Israeli army chief of staff.

"What is the point of complaining about them," Dayan said in a 1956 eulogy at the grave of Roi Rutenberg, a young kibbutznik murdered by terrorists on the border with the Gaza Strip. "Our enemies are out to save themselves. After all, they see across the way how we take their fields for our own ... For we are a generation of settlers and by our sword we shall live..."

Then there is former Prime Minister Ehud Barak, who recently said that there would be no political settlement until 2028, when the Palestinian generation disappears that experienced the Nakba, or the "Catastrophe," as the Arabs call their defeat in Israel's 1948 War of Independence.

And some quote Robert Aumann, the Hebrew University professor who recently won the Nobel Peace Prize for his work on game theory: "This is a conflict that has lasted at least 80 years, and I don't see that it will end in the near future."

The notion that Israelis and Palestinians are unfortunate participants in a Greek-style tragedy has come to the surface again with yet another round of violent confrontation. Israelis and Palestinians counted at least 15 dead in recent weeks: A senior Islamic Jihad leader was killed in an Israeli "targeted killing"; five Israelis were killed in a Palestinian suicide bombing a few days later; and nine Palestinians died in Israeli air strikes in response to the bombing.

Hopes that Israel's recent Gaza withdrawal would trigger renewed political momentum to end the conflict evaporated into the thin air.

So is the intifada back?

Some argue that it never really stopped. This argument is based on the long-term conflict concept of Dayan and Barak and on the Palestinians' own definition of the present situation. All Palestinian factions, with the exception of Islamic Jihad, declared a sort of truce in the armed struggle against Israel early this year.

But the Arabic term they chose — "tahadiya" — means "calming down" the fighting, not ending it. One way of looking

at the "tahadiya" is to see it as just another intermezzo in a decades-long conflict, during which the terrorist groups are rebuilding their devastated military capabilities for the next round.

Likewise, according to this view, the "second intifada" that has raged since late 2000 and which some say ended with the tahadiya — terror attacks have continued since then but at a slower pace — was just another chapter in the conflict, as will be any

new round of violence.

But every phase of the conflict is different from the others. One thing that distinguishes the second intifada from the first, which lasted from 1987 to 1993, is that it came after a serious attempt to end the conflict.

Another thing that distinguishes the second intifada from the first is that the Palestinians have been far more armed and organized this time around, having taken advantage of the Oslo peace process to build a massive terrorist infrastructure, as well as a sizable P.A. security force that was supposed to confront the terrorists but instead often collaborated with them.

The first seven months of 2005 have witnessed a gradual but marked increase in attempts by the terrorist groups to renew the violence, according to figures released by Israel's Shin Bet security service.

However, the number of attacks in the territories, and particularly inside Israel proper, has dropped sharply. In part it's because of the tahadiya, in part because of intensive IDF operations in the West Bank and in part because of Israel's West Bank security fence.

But a renewed round of violence is not a foregone conclusion. Even this week, there were signs of a potential lull in the fighting after several days of violence.

Palestinian officials declared Sunday that Islamic Jihad militants agreed to halt rocket attacks on Israel from the Gaza Strip, provided Israel ended its air raids. But the Israeli reaction reflected the fragility of the situation: Israel agreed to stop air raids, but vowed to continue operations against Islamic Jihad.

"There is intent to continue it until

they cannot carry out any more suicide bombings," Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz told the Israeli Cabinet.

Likewise, Islamic Jihad, which is sworn to Israel's destruction, did not say that it would halt suicide bombings under its renewed truce commitment.

Even if violence is contained, neither Palestinians nor Israelis are sufficiently motivated to turn over a new leaf, at least not right now.

Both Israel and the Palestinians are on the eve of new elections. Palestinian legislative elections are scheduled for Jan. 26, while elections for the Israeli Knesset are scheduled for November 2006 but are expected to be held sooner.

With P.A. President Mahmoud Abbas concerned about the growing power of Hamas and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon on shaky footing in his own Likud Party, no one is prepared to make dramatic moves to break the stalemate. It's in this political vacuum that Palestinian extremists flourish and a "third intifada" may emerge.

However, several factors would make a new round of violence much more difficult for the Palestinians:

- The security fence between Israel and the territories has impeded suicide terrorism, the Palestinians' most effective weapon.

- With its Gaza settlements gone Israel feels freer to act in the coastal strip, both in political terms — terrorists attacking from Gaza can no longer cite occupation as a justification — and in tactical terms, as there no longer is a threat of reprisal against Jewish settlements.

Likewise, the IDF stages almost daily raids on terrorist targets in the West Bank.

- Palestinian public opinion, which in 2000 showed overwhelming support for violence against Israel, sees that terrorism has been catastrophic for the Palestinians themselves on the social, political and military levels, and now is more supportive of the political option that Abbas touts.

- Israelis and most Palestinian factions, including Hamas, have no interest in rocking the boat before the Palestinian elections. Thus, some feel that even if the extremists succeed in reigniting the intifada, it will be a kind of "intifada lite," a far cry from the past five bloody years.

Even if violence is contained, neither Palestinians nor Israelis seem sufficiently motivated to turn over a new leaf.

NEWS  
ANALYSIS

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## NORTH AMERICA

### Poll: Better view of Israel

The Gaza withdrawal helped Israel's standing in the eyes of American opinion-shapers, according to a new poll.

Three focus groups and a survey of 500 opinion elites found that Israel's decision to leave Gaza was the main reason that perceptions of Israel have improved.

Many of those polled also said they saw the withdrawal as a bold move that would spur Mideast peace efforts.

The media coverage "clearly helped shape people's consciousness for a two-state solution and that Israel can be a positive, contributing party to that process," said Stanley Greenberg, the pollster who carried out the survey.

Seventy-seven percent of respondents said they felt more confident about prospects for peace after the Gaza withdrawal than they did a year ago, and 42 percent said media coverage of the withdrawal had given them a favorable impression of Israel.

Greenberg said that preliminary research showed a similar positive image boost for Israel in France.

### U.S. security officials go to Israel

U.S. officials are scheduled to travel to Israel to learn about homeland security.

Some 30 law enforcement and security professionals from across the United States will travel to Israel on Friday for a one-week look at how Israel deals with homeland security.

The mission is sponsored by a group called Security Solutions International.

### Canadians condemn Iran

Canada's Parliament unanimously condemned Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's statements calling for Israel's annihilation.

The resolution approved Monday also condemned Iran's failure to fully cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency and for committing human rights violations.

## WORLD

### Ethiopian riots delay visit by Israeli officials

Protests in Ethiopia delayed the visit of an Israeli government delegation that planned to discuss Falash Mura immigration.

Two days of protests over disputed elections left at least 23 dead Wednesday and scores wounded.

Foreign embassies, including Israel's, have shut down in the wake of the violence.

The Israeli delegation had meetings scheduled to facilitate an increase in the number of Falash Mura immigrating to the Jewish state every month, from 300 to 600, according to officials of the Jewish Agency for Israel.

### E.U. to consider border role

The European Union will send senior officials to evaluate a possible E.U. role in monitoring a border crossing between Egypt and the Gaza Strip.

The E.U.'s executive commission said it "stands ready to play its part" should Israel and the Palestinians both request an E.U. role on the border, Ha'aretz reported.

Israel on Tuesday approved a plan calling for E.U. officials to inspect travelers entering the Gaza Strip from Egypt through the Rafah border crossing, which would be the first time Israel will allow the European Union, which generally is seen as biased toward the Palestinians, to play a major role in Israeli-Palestinian relations.

### Israel reopens its New Zealand embassy

Israel is reopening its embassy in New Zealand, three years after it closed due to budget cuts.

Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom made the announcement at a meeting in Jerusalem last week when Jan Henderson presented her credentials as New Zealand's ambassador to Israel.

Following the closure, Israel's diplomatic relations with New Zealand were handled by its embassy in Australia.

New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clarke suspended relations with Israel in mid-2004 following the conviction and jailing of two Israelis for attempting to fraudulently obtain a New Zealand passport. Israel later apologized for the incident.

Clarke accused the men of being spies for Israel's Mossad, though Israel never confirmed that.

### Yad Vashem helps Rwandan survivors

Yad Vashem is helping survivors of the Rwandan massacre set up their own memorial museum.

Twenty members of the Tutsi tribe, which lost 800,000 members to rival Hutus in the 1994 massacre, are attending a conference at Yad Vashem that features discussions about commemorating genocide and rebuilding in its aftermath.

The event, held in partnership with Nyamirambo, a Tutsi NGO, and the French Memorial of the Shoah, includes tours of Yad Vashem and meetings between Rwandans and Holocaust survivors.

## MIDDLE EAST

### Seeing orange over Rabin art

A young Israeli artist's impression of Yitzhak Rabin's assassination caused outrage.

Among artwork to go up in the Knesset this week ahead of the 10th anniversary of the prime minister's death is a high schooler's abstract painting showing assassin Yigal Amir in an orange outline.

Arieh Eldad of the National Union bloc accused the artist of suggesting that Amir was one of a kind with Israelis who opposed the recent Gaza Strip withdrawal, and whose rallying color was orange.

"They are making him look like one of the anti-disengagement opponents," Eldad told Yediot Achronot. The Knesset spokesman had no immediate comment.

### Al-Qaida behind bars?

Israel said it uncovered an Al-Qaida cell among Palestinian security prisoners.

Prisons Service sources said this week that nine jailed Hamas men are under investigation after secretly informing the leadership of the Islamic terrorist group in the Gaza Strip that they were defecting to Osama bin Laden's global network.

According to the sources, two of the inmates had undergone training at Al-Qaida camps in Afghanistan and Pakistan before being arrested by Israeli forces. It was not immediately clear what prison sentences the nine were serving.

Hamas denies that any of its members had broken away to join Al-Qaida.

### Egyptian infiltrators killed

Egyptian police killed two men who tried to cross illegally into Israel.

The would-be infiltrators, described as tobacco smugglers from the Sinai, were shot dead at the Israel-Egypt frontier near Taba on Tuesday after they ignored orders to stop.

Egypt is under international pressure to stop smuggling from its territory into Israel, especially of weapons intended for Palestinian terrorist groups.

Israeli officials say enforcement is often patchy, and accuse some Egyptian border personnel of taking bribes to overlook infiltrators.