

**IN THE NEWS**
**Synagogue stabber sentenced in Russia**

A Russian convicted of a stabbing spree at a Moscow synagogue received a 13-year prison sentence. [Story, Pg. 2]

**Kadima Party seen as shoo-in**

Final opinion polls predicted the Kadima Party would sweep the Israeli elections. Surveys published Monday by Yediot Achronot and Ma'ariv saw Kadima, under interim Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, taking 34 of the Knesset's 120 seats on Tuesday.

Trailing Kadima are the Labor Party, which is expected to take 17-21 seats, and Likud with around 13 seats.

Likud also is threatened by Yisrael Beiteinu under Avigdor Lieberman, whose law-and-order platform has proven especially popular in an otherwise lackluster campaign. If it wins the election, Kadima appears likely to team up with Labor and a smaller faction to form the parliamentary majority needed for further Israeli withdrawals from the West Bank.

**Iran: Attacks won't deter our enrichment**

Military strikes will not stop Iran from enriching uranium, a senior Iranian official said. "We can enrich uranium anywhere in the country, with a vast country of more than 1,600,000 square kilometers," Aliasghar Soltaniyeh, Iran's ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, told a panel discussion in Berlin, according to Reuters.

He insisted that Iran's nuclear intentions are peaceful. The IAEA, the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog, believes Iran may be covering up a weapons program and has referred Iran to the U.N. Security Council for possible sanctions. In recent weeks, the United States and Israel have been more emphatic in not ruling out a military option against Iran's nuclear facilities.

# WORLD REPORT

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## At lively hearing in AIPAC case, judge hints he could dismiss case

By RON KAMPEAS

**A**LEXANDRIA, Va. (JTA) — A federal judge has hinted that he might dismiss the classified-information case against two former officials of the pro-Israel lobby, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

Hearing a defense motion for dismissal last Friday, District Judge T.S. Ellis III expressed reservations about the breadth of a never-used 1917 statute at the core of the case.

"What I'm really expressing discomfort about is that it's always nice to have a clear precedent to follow," he said. "I think we are in new, uncharted territory, so I'm going to consider this matter very carefully."

Ellis gave the sides until this Friday to submit additional arguments, but the smiles around the defense table suggested they had fared better than expected at the hearing.

Steve Rosen, AIPAC's former foreign policy director, and Keith Weissman, its former Iran analyst, were indicted last August on charges that they relayed classified information to fellow AIPAC staffers, journalists and diplomats at the Israeli Embassy in Washington.

AIPAC fired Rosen and Weissman last March, saying that information arising out of the investigation suggested they did not comport with AIPAC's standards. Federal prosecutors have made clear that AIPAC is not suspected of wrongdoing.

Free-speech advocates have raised alarms about the World War I-era statute that bans the retention and dissemination of "information relating to the national

defense," saying its broadness collides with First Amendment protections because it could criminalize even casual conversations about the armed forces.

In its lead editorial March 23, The Washington Post slammed the government's case against Rosen and Weissman.

"Their conviction would herald a dangerous aggrandizement of the government's power not merely to prosecute leaks but to force ordinary Americans to keep its secrets," it said.

Now it is up to Ellis to decide if the statute passes First Amendment muster and should go to trial as planned on April 25.

Last week's vigorous hearing anticipated one of the core arguments to be tested if the case does go to trial: whether the statute, which criminalizes not just the relaying of classified information but its retention, includes oral communications.

The indictment focuses primarily on conversations about U.S. policy on Iran, Al-Qaida and other areas that Rosen and Weissman allegedly conducted with a number of government officials, especially Larry Franklin, a former mid-level Iran analyst at the Pentagon.

Franklin pleaded guilty Jan. 20 to leaking classified information. He was sentenced to more than 12 years in prison.

"How do you give back what you heard?" asked Rosen's lawyer, Abbe Lowell, who led defense arguments in last week's hearing, referring to oral exchanges of information.

Ellis picked up the point, asking Kevin DiGregory, who is leading a large prosecution team, "What are they supposed to do,

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## Judge in AIPAC case is skeptical about a statute being used by the government

*Continued from page 1*

have a lobotomy?"

DiGregory countered that he would prove at trial that Rosen and Weissman conspired to solicit and disseminate the classified information, and that the nature of the information transfer was not at issue. In other words, he argued, the issue was conduct, not speech.

That irked Ellis.

"All speech is conduct," he said.

DiGregory said that excluding oral exchanges from the statute would tie prosecutors' hands. Dismissing the case would set a precedent that could allow, say, a spy to have a contact read aloud a classified document, as long as he did not physically hand it over, he argued.

Ellis seemed most concerned by the First Amendment implications of the statute, asking Lowell and DiGregory to consider hypothetical cases.

Lowell, who served as chief counsel to Democrats on the U.S. House of Representatives' Judiciary Committee during President Clinton's impeachment hearings, ably parried the hypothetical case put to him by Ellis, in which a disgruntled government official calls a lobbyist and suggests to him that the United States might take military action against another nation.

To know that he has committing a crime by just listening, Lowell said, the lobbyist would have to know that the government official is reading from a classified document and is not authorized to leak it.

DiGregory would not count out using the statute against journalists, but said prosecutors would probably be more hesitant in going after the press.

"Because of the function the media serves in this country, we would have to carefully scrutinize whether to take action," he said. But he added, "If you look at the statute, it plainly applies to journalists, anyone, whoever."

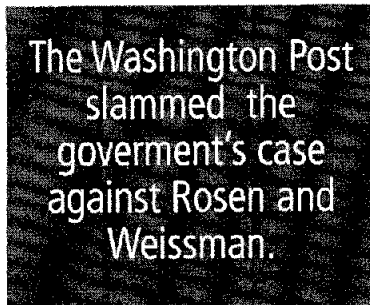
In all, there were 14 motions. Ellis ruled immediately on a number of them, but postponed decisions on the most important, including the motion to dismiss the case.

Ellis said he would rule later on the defense's slate of subpoenas of top Bush administration officials, including Condoleezza Rice, the secretary of state; Stephen Hadley, the national

security adviser; and David Satterfield, the deputy ambassador in Baghdad. He suggested that he was likely to approve the subpoena of Satterfield, who is one of the government officials identified in the indictment as leaking information to Rosen.

The defense plans to press the government on why it is charging Rosen with accepting the leak while not prosecuting Satterfield with leaking the information in the first place.

On another motion, Ellis asked Lowell to try one last time to get three Israeli diplomats — to whom Rosen and Weissman allegedly relayed the classified information — to voluntarily give depositions. One of them is Naor Gilon, who until last summer was the chief political officer at the Israeli Embassy in Washington.



## Russian synagogue attacker sentenced

MOSCOW (JTA) — A leading Russian Jewish group has sharply criticized the verdict against a man found guilty of stabbing nine people in a Moscow synagogue because the court failed to call the attack a hate crime.

On Monday, the Moscow City Court sentenced Alexander Koptsev, 21, to 13 years in prison for attempted murder in the January incident. But the court cleared Koptsev of a second charge, inciting ethnic or religious hatred, effectively refusing to treat his crime as an act of anti-Semitism. The defense is expected to appeal.

The verdict is more evidence of "how the judicial system in our country is not willing to fight against racial and religious intolerance," the Federation of Jewish Communities said in a statement Monday.

The group's leader echoed this statement. "I have a dubious feeling about today's sentence," Berel Lazar, one of Russia's chief rabbis said. "Yes, the sentence is severe and adequate for the gravity" of the crime.

"But at the same time I'm concerned by the nearly maniacal unwillingness of the courts to qualify crimes of this type as in-

citing ethnic and religious hatred," Lazar said in a statement.

Lazar said the verdict "leveled the educational meaning" of the sentence as the court found the man guilty only of his acts, not of his motives.

Yitzhak Kogan, the rabbi of the synagogue where the incident took place, refused to comment on the verdict.

In his final word in the court last week, Koptsev was unrepentant, although he asked those whom he injured to forgive him.

He added that his victims should not have been targeted because they "are not waging war against my people, as are their" fellow Jews "who are in power" in Russia. He added that enmity against Russians is in Jewish "genes."

On Jan. 11, Koptsev stabbed nine people in the Bolshaya Bronnaya Street Synagogue in Moscow with a hunting knife before being pushed to the ground by the synagogue's rabbi and several worshippers.

Vadim Kluvgant, the victims' lawyer, said he would appeal to reinstate the hate crime charge.



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# Report calls for action on Jewish continuity

By PENNY SCHWARTZ

BOSTON (JTA) — Bus drivers. That's what American Jewry needs to pull itself together, according to a team of prominent Jewish scholars.

The image of a bus driver guiding Jewish families through the complex maze of choices for Jewish learning and social experiences is being floated as part of a new report, "Linking the Silos: How to Accelerate the Momentum in Jewish Education Today," published by the Avi Chai Foundation in December.

Operating in a "survivalist" mode, Jewish institutions have spent the past several decades raising funds and creating new educational programs to address what was determined to be a crisis in Jewish continuity, Jack Wertheimer, the author of the report, writes in the executive summary.

The first public discourse on "Linking the Silos," which seeks to move beyond the crisis and reappraise the current moment in education, took place at a conference here of the Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education, a group that focuses on day schools.

"The report tries to contextualize Jewish education within the larger American Jewish community and with what's happening with family life," according to Wertheimer, provost and professor of American Jewish history at the Conservative movement's Jewish Theological Seminary in New York.

"We need to think about linkages and connections," Wertheimer told JTA following the March 19 panel discussion. "Day schools and other Jewish institutions don't operate in a vacuum. One of the key challenges is how to involve day schools with other Jewish institutions."

Those other Jewish institutions include supplemental religious school programs often connected with synagogues, Jewish summer camps, Jewish youth groups, trips to Israel, Jewish pre-schools and adult-education programs.

Wertheimer headed a team of prominent Jewish researchers, who looked at various aspects of these institutions.

The report's name, "Linking the Silos," is borrowed from the information technology industry, describing how institutions operate in isolation, similar to free-standing silos.

Jewish institutions operate indepen-

dently and are understandably focused on their own mission, Wertheimer said. "What we're trying to stress is to get institutions to recognize that they're part of something larger.

"It may be pie in the sky that a system can be created, but certainly there is a need for a network of Jewish institutions that interact with each other," he said.

Wertheimer not only wants to break down those barriers, he wants to see the community establish "bus drivers." These drivers, he said, would connect Jewish preschool families with day schools and congregations; and establish links between day schools, congregational schools and summer camps, so that the experiences build on each other.

This extends to adult education as well, Wertheimer said. His study finds parents today are integrally involved with their children's education but often find themselves knowing less than their kids when it comes to Jewish learning.

The report analyzes data from prior surveys, including the 2000-2001 National Jewish Population Study. In addition, researchers conducted interviews with educators, parents and grandparents in 10 communities around the country.

Thirty years ago, Jewish education was the lowest of the low on a set of priorities for American Jewish institutions and donors, said Barry Shrage, executive director of the Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston.

"There is a zeitgeist change," he said, noting the flocking of Jewish philanthropists to the day school cause and the record turnout at the PEJE assembly, which drew 1,000 day-school educators and supporters to the three-day conference.

Shrage is considered among the country's leading voices for innovative Jewish educational programming.

He has shepherded through major initiatives for adult education programs and Jewish day schools, including the Peerless Education program, which is overseeing a \$45 million grant for Jewish day schools in

the Boston area.

Thirty years ago, the question being asked at federations was, "What's the innovation that will save American Jewry?" he said.

"The answer is that there is no one institution. Most American Jews experience more than one or two of these and the impact is huge," he said.

Now that it's conventional wisdom that different experiences contribute to Jewish identity, Shrage agrees that more needs to be done to connect the dots.

The report comes at a time when many communities are shining a bright light on Jewish day schools, showing them to be among the most effective institutions to provide Jewish students with a lifelong connection to Jewish

practice and values.

But Jonathan Woocher, president and CEO of JESNA, the federation system's organization focused on Jewish education, questioned whether there is too much emphasis on day schools in the chain of Jewish institutions.

He said that as much as he believes in day schools, "we know there's a large portion of the Jewish population for whom today, day schools are not a realistic option.

"Many are not showing up in any formal Jewish education," said Woocher, who moderated the PEJE panel.

"The challenge is to empower synagogues, which are the front line in engaging many Jewish families, to do that job more effectively and be more attractive and welcoming. It means investing in synagogue education on a communal level in ways we've not often done in the past," Woocher said.

Some observers cite an underlying tension between day school and religious school leaders, who see their organizations competing for the same fixed group of Jewish children.

But Rabbi Joshua Elkin, executive director of PEJE, said, "There are enough children out there for both the synagogues and the day schools to do just fine. Collectively, we are missing the connection with a lot of these kids."

## FOCUS ON ISSUES

'We need to think about linkages and connections.'

Jack Wertheimer  
History professor, JTS

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## MIDDLE EAST

### Gaza terrorist killed

Israeli forces killed a Palestinian terrorist in the Gaza Strip. The Islamic Jihad member was shot dead Monday while trying to fire a rocket-propelled grenade from northern Gaza into Israeli territory. In a separate operation, the Israeli air force fired on a car carrying a wanted man in Gaza.

An occupant of the vehicle and a bystander reportedly were wounded.

### Israeli bird flu contained

Israel contained its first bird-flu outbreak. Agriculture Minister Ze'ev Boim announced Sunday that all poultry determined to have been exposed to the deadly H5N1 strain, detected in Israel earlier this month, had been destroyed.

But he warned that, with the flu potentially spreading in neighboring Gaza, Egypt and Jordan, there could be a new contagion in Israel.

According to Boim, Israeli farmers will be paid more than \$5 million in compensation for the loss of some 1.2 million chickens and turkeys that were culled from flocks to prevent the spread of disease.

### Israeli envoy criticizes electoral process

Israel's ambassador to the United States advocated a U.S.-style presidential system. Speaking Saturday at Manhattan's New York Synagogue, Daniel Ayalon said that Israel should emulate the U.S. voting system, Ha'aretz reported.

With Israelis going to the polls Tuesday, Ayalon said the U.S. system is better because it allows the president to name his Cabinet without relying on political parties.

Israel tried a system of direct voting for prime minister in the 1990s, but abandoned it after two elections because it fragmented the parliamentary system even further.

### Hamas leader talks peace

Hamas' top politician called for an end to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"We don't seek a vortex of blood in the region," Ismail Haniyeh, the designated Palestinian Authority prime minister, said Sunday. "We want rights and dignity," he added, "and to put an end to this decades-old, complicated situation." Haniyeh offered to travel to the United States and Europe — where Hamas is blacklisted as a terrorist group — to explain his policies. Israeli officials dismissed the remarks as a bid to deflect international pressure on the Islamic terrorist group to renounce violence, recognize the Jewish state's right to exist and endorse past Israeli-Palestinian peace deals.

### Temple Mount closed

Israeli police temporarily sealed off Jerusalem's Temple Mount, citing security concerns. The Temple Mount, site of two major Muslim shrines and the holiest site in Judaism, was declared off-limits to visitors of all faiths Monday. Security sources said the move followed intelligence alerts that radical Israelis or Palestinians could try to incite violent confrontations at the site ahead of Tuesday's general elections in Israel. The closure was expected to be in force until Wednesday.

## NORTH AMERICA

### HIAS: Keep immigration policies humanitarian

The Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society wants the Senate to include provisions in border protection policies that are "consistent with

American humanitarian policies and effective against illegal migration." In a release issued Monday, when the Senate's Judiciary Committee resumed its consideration of proposed changes, HIAS said the legislation should provide an opportunity for hard-working immigrants already in the United States to come out of hiding and "regularize their status" if they can satisfy reasonable criteria.

### Palestinian rights advocate blocked from U.S.

The U.S. State Department blocked a Palestinian human-rights advocate from entering the United States.

Lawyer Raji Sourani was not given a visa to visit the United States on a March 24-30 trip, though he had meetings arranged with top U.S. officials, the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Center for Human Rights said in a statement.

The U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem is requiring Sourani to obtain an Israeli police certificate before it will process his application.

The State Department said it's still considering the case.

"We are aware of Mr. Sourani's prominence and interest in his case," a statement said.

"Once Mr. Sourani has completed the visa application process, we are prepared to expedite his application."

### Synagogues in Montreal defaced

Two synagogues in Montreal were defaced. Members of the Chai Center arrived for Saturday morning services to find swastikas on the walls and windows of their synagogue. Congregants were upset that police took more than 24 hours to investigate the scene, but police later promised increased surveillance of the area. Another nearby synagogue, Zichron Kidoshim, also was defaced this past week with spray-painted swastikas and Nazi SS symbols. Both synagogues are in the Snowdon district of Montreal, home to many Orthodox Jews.

### Group's donations for Katrina relief top \$1 million

The American Jewish Committee made the final donations from its Hurricane Katrina relief fund. The \$432,000 donated to eight synagogues and four churches in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi brings the total amount the group has given for Katrina relief to more than \$1 million.

## WORLD

### Lithuanian war criminal freed

A Lithuanian found guilty of Nazi-era war crimes was spared prison time.

A court in Vilnius on Monday convicted Algimantas Dailide, 85, who worked for the Nazi-backed Lithuanian secret police during World War II, of seizing Jewish property and arresting 12 Jews who tried to flee the German-led genocide.

But the court turned down prosecutors' requests for a five-year prison sentence, setting Dailide free with the argument that he was too old and no longer posed a threat to society.

### Community center to open for tsunami victims

A community center for tsunami victims in Sri Lanka, financed by a Jewish group, is set to open this week.

The center in the Lagoswatte Eco-Village, scheduled to open Tuesday, was financed by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

The center includes a bank that will provide small-scale loans, a clinic and a vocational center that will serve as many as 5,000 villagers in the area. The community center is the first of four that the JDC is building in Sri Lanka along with Sarvodaya, a Sri Lankan nonprofit group.