

**IN THE NEWS**
**Israel hits Gaza again**

An Israeli airstrike killed two Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

Two women reportedly were killed Wednesday when an Israeli missile missed its target and hit a house instead.

At least a dozen people were wounded.

**Sudanese leader blames Jewish groups**

Sudan's president said Jewish groups are responsible for the possible U.N. deployment of peacekeepers in his country.

"If we return to the last demonstrations in the United States, and the groups that organized the demonstrations, we find that they are all Jewish organizations," Omar al-Bashir said.

U.S. Jewish groups have taken the lead in calling for more international intervention to prevent genocide in Sudan's Darfur region, where a government-sponsored campaign of violence has led to an estimated 200,000 deaths and a humanitarian crisis.

**Presbyterian Church departs from divestment**

The Presbyterian Church USA distanced itself from its 2004 decision to divest from companies that do business in Israel. Meeting at its General Assembly in Birmingham, the church voted 483-28, with one abstention, to replace the resolution of its last assembly that called for a "phased, selective divestment in multinational corporations operating in Israel."

The new policy of "corporate engagement" would restrict investments in Israel, the Gaza Strip and West Bank to peaceful pursuits and alters church policy on Israel's security barrier.

The 2004 resolution called for the barrier's removal, but the version approved Wednesday asks that the barrier be dismantled where it extends beyond Israel's 1967 borders.

# WORLD REPORT

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## Under Herzl's gaze, Zionist Congress emphasizes need to empower youth

By DINA KRAFT

**J**ERUSALEM (JTA)—On a sun-drenched window ledge, three young European delegates to the Zionist World Congress sit poring over resolutions on anti-Semitism and Zionist education, debating which ones to oppose and which to support.

Dana Landau, 21, from Zurich, and Jeremy Uhr, 25, and Ilan Togerow, 29, both from Brussels, are among the younger generation of faces at the Congress. Committed and intelligent, they wonder, like many of their fellow delegates, how to keep the World Zionist Organization relevant and results-oriented in the 21st century.

"The Zionist movement is living in the past," said David Borowich, chairman and founder of Dor Chadash, a New York-based group that seeks to build ties among young Israelis and American Jews. "What are we revitalizing? What is the Zionist movement?"

A vote at the last Congress four years ago decided that future gatherings would set aside 25 percent of seats for delegates age 30 or under.

At a plenary session held at Jerusalem's International Convention Center, many delegates spoke in favor of giving the younger generation more clout.

"We stand here and we talk about renewal and pay lip service to you. We have 25 percent of the delegates, but the decisions are made at the (Zionist) executive, and there is no voice there for youth," said a delegate from Canada, Tomer Sadetsky. "We have to find a way to make us in-

involved in the real decisions."

Sadetsky was echoing frustration shared by other delegates about how decisions and policy are set in the organization. Many grumble over what they describe as a bloated bureaucracy with little accountability.

"It will be passe if it keeps being business as usual. The only way to make it real and meaningful for those who do not come to the congress is to have a more democratic and open process," said Michael Cohen, co-founder of the Green Zionist Alliance.

About 2,000 delegates and observers have gathered in Jerusalem for the four-day congress. The first congress — held in 1897 in Basel, Switzerland — launched the modern Zionist movement.

The organization's original goal was to establish a Jewish homeland. In recent years its main functions have been providing roughly half of the decision-making power for the Jewish Agency for Israel, which controls a \$350 million budget.

Half of the agency's board of governors are from the organization, as are many of its committee members.

The presence of the Zionist movement's charismatic founder, Theodor Herzl, loomed large at this year's Congress — on posters and large screens.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert addressed the group, speaking of the gap between Herzl's dream and the modern State of Israel.

In "Alteneuland," the book in which Herzl imagined an idealized homeland for the Jews, "Herzl envisioned a utopian state.

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**BEHIND  
THE  
HEADLINES**

## ■ Many delegates spoke in favor of giving the younger generation more clout

*Continued from page 1*

The State of Israel is not one, because in our world there is no utopian reality," Olmert said. "In many ways, the State of Israel has exceeded Herzl's vision; in other ways it is still remote."

Shlomo Molla, an Ethiopian immigrant nominated by Olmert to sit on the Zionist Executive, the WZO's executive body, might have surprised Herzl.

Long involved with Ethiopian absorption efforts on behalf of the Jewish Agency, Molla is expected to be voted in during elections that were scheduled for Thursday. If he wins a seat, he would be in charge of Zionist education and the struggle against anti-Semitism.

"I hope to be a loyal emissary of the Jewish nation," Molla told JTA as well-wishers congratulated him.

Also to be elected Thursday are the new head of the Jewish National Fund, the treasurer of the Jewish Agency and the common chairman of the WZO and Jewish Agency. Zeev Bielski, the current chairman of the two organizations, is running uncontested.

■  
This congress continues the marked growth of delegates from the religious streams. Factions aligned with the traditional Zionist parties used to be dominant.

Rabbi Richard Hirsch, former executive director of the World Union for Progressive Judaism and a member of the Jewish Agency's Board of Governors, said it was only natural that Diaspora Jews align themselves with what they feel

connected to — their religious streams.

"People in the Diaspora have no relationship to the political parties in Israel, especially when those political parties are always breaking up and changing," he said.

Hirsch, who once held a senior position in the WZO, said the organization was "badly in need of repair."

Judy Yudof, president of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, was representing the Conservative movement, which had one of the largest delegations.

Despite her movement's success in WZO elections, she said apathy about the movement was a major problem.

"It's very hard to get the Jews in the Diaspora to understand what the congress is all about and what the WZO is all about," she said.

■  
What got votes out was the idea that the more seats the Conservative movement's Zionist wing would win, the more money would be allocated for programs in Israel that the movement supports.

"The money in the end is what this thing is all about," she said.

In the busy lobby of the convention center, Jews from around the world

mingled — long-haired, teenaged youth movement members from Argentina, retired delegates from the United States and Australian activists.

Taking in the scene was Avrom Krengell, a lawyer from Johannesburg who heads the South African Zionist Federation.

"For us there is symbolic value in seeing 2,000 Jews come together and renew their commitment to Zionism, Israel and the Diaspora," he said.

For those from South Africa and other countries

where anti-Israel sentiment has been high in recent years, the congress can be a place to draw strength.

"In the Diaspora, where there is a feeling of detachment and isolation," he said, "this is a place that can give strength to our participants."

■  
But for the young European delegates, the future of Zionism in their countries is not clear. The three that sat in the window reviewing resolutions point out one that they hope will pass: It calls for Israeli envoys to work with youth movements abroad. In recent years, they said, hardly any emissaries have been sent and funded by the WZO.

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**Tomer Sadetsky**

Delegate, World Zionist Congress

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## Queen honors British Jews

PRAGUE (JTA) — Several British Jews were honored with titles by Queen Elizabeth as part of her 80th birthday festivities, the Web site [SomethingJewish.co.uk](http://SomethingJewish.co.uk) reported.

Philip Green, owner of the retail chains BHS and Topshop, and David Michels, the former chief executive of the Hilton Group, were knighted. Esther Rantzen, the founder of Childline, a hotline for young people, and Joan Burnstein, co-founder of the Browns fashion chain, were named commanders of the British Empire.

Naim Dangoor, a 90-year-old Iraqi Jew, was also recognized with an Order of

the British Empire for his contribution to the Jewish community as well as to education.

The same title was bestowed upon Rabbi Harry Jacobi, who was born in Berlin in 1925 and arrived in Britain as part of the Kindertransport that saved 10,000 Jews from the Holocaust.

Jacobi is vice president of the liberal Judaism movement in the United Kingdom. Cheryl Sklan, who is involved in the Masorti movement, became a member of The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire title for her work with young people.

# Israel to move against outposts

By LESLIE SUSSER

JERUSALEM (JTA) — In a first major test of Israel's plans for a large-scale West Bank withdrawal, the government is gearing up for a showdown with extremists in four unauthorized outposts.

If successful, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert intends to go on to evacuate all 24 outposts built since March 2001, fulfilling an Israeli commitment under the "road map" peace plan.

The anticipated confrontation with settlers could be highly significant.

It will give a first indication of whether Olmert has the clout to carry out a subsequent pullback entailing the evacuation of 50,000-100,000 settlers, and will have major implications for the rule of law in the West Bank.

In addition, when all 24 of the illegal outposts are dismantled, Israel will be able to claim that it has carried out its part of the road map's opening phase, and can demand with greater moral authority that the Palestinians meet their commitment to dismantle terrorist militias.

In mid-June, Defense Minister Amir Peretz ordered the Israel Defense Forces to be ready within two weeks to evacuate unauthorized West Bank outposts.

Peretz has made it clear that he intends to start with four problematic outposts where radical young settlers have assaulted soldiers and policemen as well as Israeli and Palestinian civilians. In a meeting with settler leaders Sunday, Peretz said they would be ill-advised to make a stand for these unruly groups.

The outposts slated for early evacuation are Maon Farm near Hebron and Arusi Farm, Skali Farm and Hill 722 near Nablus.

Settlers at Maon Farm are suspected of harassing Palestinian children on their way to school — the children now receive a daily IDF escort — and settlers from Arusi Farm are thought to be behind attacks on Palestinian workers at a nearby quarry where a mobile home, two trucks and a generator were torched.

Peretz hopes to show that, as the minister directly responsible for what goes on in the territories, he won't tolerate settler violations of the law. First up will be Maon Farm, with the evacuation expected to take place before the end of June.

In all, there are 105 unauthorized outposts. Two dozen were built after then-Prime Minister Ariel Sharon promised the Bush administration in March 2001 that there would be no more.

It's these 24 that Israel undertook to dismantle under the April 2003 road map, but nothing was done because the Palestinians did not meet their commitment to stop terrorism against Israel. Later, when Israel decided to move unilaterally regardless of terrorism, Sharon deferred the outpost issue so as not to jeopardize the far more significant pullout from the Gaza Strip last summer.

Now the Olmert government wants go ahead quickly, partly to signal its seriousness about plans to withdraw from most of the West Bank, partly to show the international community that it's acting in good faith and partly to send a law-and-order message to settlers.

Settler leaders hope to minimize the damage. The fact that the Gaza pullout went ahead despite their efforts to scuttle it is seen by the settler community as a major failure, and has forced them to rethink their resistance tactics.

Some settlers say the lesson is that there should be more coordination with the government; others that resistance should be much tougher.

For now, the Judea and Samaria Settlers' Council hopes to negotiate a deal with the government under which settlers voluntarily evacuate some of the unauthorized outposts in return for the legalization of

others. The proposal was raised in Sunday's meeting with Peretz, and almost certainly will be followed up in subsequent talks.

But there's a hitch: Settler leaders can't vouch for the actions of radicals at the outposts. In a February confrontation over the destruction of illegal homes at the Amona outpost, radicals paid little heed to the council, and clashes with police were fierce.

There's no guarantee that radical settlers at the four outposts slated for initial evacuation would cooperate with moderate settler leaders. On the contrary, young radicals across the West Bank are threatening

even worse violence than at Amona, and also say they'll try to delay any move with legal petitions.

Police and top IDF brass say they wouldn't be surprised if evacuating forces encounter

armed resistance. As a result, the Shin Bet security service is stepping up its efforts to gather intelligence on Jewish extremists.

Peretz, the neophyte defense minister, will be the key figure in handling the different pressures involved. He has made it clear to settlers that he's ready to deal on the big picture, but won't negotiate over the four outposts he considers inhabited by serial lawbreakers.

He also will probably insist, at the least, on the evacuation of all 24 outposts established after March 2001.

The outcome could be important on two levels — as a curtain raiser for the bigger West Bank pullout and as a stage for Peretz to build up his credentials as a national leader.

NEWS  
ANALYSIS

Peretz intends to start evacuations with four outposts where settlers have assaulted soldiers.

## Matchmaker pays for mismatch

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — Sure, ladies, you want to meet the right man, but would you shell out \$125,000 for an introduction?

Anne Majerik, a 60-year-old widow and grandmother, paid that amount to Orly Hadida, who bills herself as a former Miss Israel and now as the Beverly Hills-based "Rolls-Royce of matchmakers."

The fee wasn't even a record for Orly, who goes by her first name. She charges \$200,000 for her "money-back guaranteed billionaire search with international men

having estates worth up to \$50 million."

But in her lawsuit against Orly, Majerik told a Los Angeles civil jury that her promised dream date with a supposed international banker ended up in a meeting with a lowly interpreter who worked in a bank.

Orly filed a counterclaim for \$700,000, arguing that Majerik was a serial suer of matchmakers who turned off dates by rude questions about their income and wealth.

In its verdict last month, the jury hit Orly with a \$2.1 million judgment.

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## MIDDLE EAST

### Israel criticized over Gaza airstrikes

Britain, the United Nations and Russia criticized Israel for recent airstrikes in the Gaza Strip that have killed civilians.

"The killing of innocent civilians, and particularly children, is completely unacceptable," Britain's foreign secretary, Margaret Beckett, was quoted as saying.

Russia's Foreign Ministry released a statement acknowledging Israel's security concerns, but saying that the "use of force against the civilian population is unacceptable." The airstrikes are aimed at suspected terrorists, including those firing rocket salvos into Israel, but have killed many civilians as well.

### West Bank terrorist killed

Israeli troops killed a wanted Palestinian terrorist in the West Bank. The Al-Aksa Brigade chief in Nablus died Wednesday in a shootout with soldiers who came to arrest him.

A comrade was wounded and taken into custody. Elsewhere in the West Bank, troops detained nine suspected terrorists as part of continued security sweeps.

### Abbas opposes rockets

Mahmoud Abbas urged an end to Palestinian rocket fire.

The Palestinian Authority president issued a statement Tuesday condemning the cross-border salvos by Gaza terrorist groups, saying they provoked Israeli countermeasures.

### Settler held over arms

A U.S.-born West Bank settler was arrested on suspicion of smuggling arms to Israel.

Police said Wednesday that Jeffrey Shmuel Seth, originally of California, was arrested earlier this month after an undeclared sniper rifle and ammunition were found in his shipping crate.

Police say Seth, 39, is a supporter of the late Rabbi Meir Kahane, spurring concern that he wanted to hoard weapons for terrorist attacks on Palestinians. He denied the charge.

### Olmert: Withdrawal a demographic necessity

Ehud Olmert described his plan to withdraw from parts of the West Bank as an answer to drop-offs in Jewish immigration to Israel.

"Today, the State of Israel is already closer to being the place in which the majority of Jews in the world live," the Israeli prime minister said Tuesday in a speech to the 35th Zionist Congress.

"I would like this fact to be determined solely by an increasing stream of aliyah, but unfortunately, this is not to be at this time."

### Conservative leaders demand civil marriage in Israel

Conservative Jewish leaders called on Israel's High Court to move to allow civil marriages.

The calls came this week after court president Aharon Barak on Sunday told a group of American Conservative Jews visiting Israel that "the lack of civil marriage in Israel is a major violation of human rights." "Justice Barak's overdue recognition of the violations of basic human rights that Israelis suffer on a daily basis should serve as a call to action for the entire Supreme Court," said Ray Goldstein, international president of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. Israel's Orthodox Chief Rabbinate holds a monopoly on marriage and divorce in Israel.

### Terror victim remarries

An Israeli who lost his family to a Palestinian terrorist attack remarried. Avi Ohayon wed Lilach Ofer on Tuesday, three and a half

years after a Palestinian gunman killed Ohayon's two small sons and estranged wife in an attack at Kibbutz Metzger.

The tragedy made Ohayon a national figure, especially after he turned his energies to building international support for Israel's West Bank security barrier.

Ohayon, a videographer, has opened a private studio named Matnoam in memory of his sons, *Matan and Noam*.

### Israel admits more Palestinian workers

Israel increased the number of Palestinian merchants allowed to enter its territory.

The Defense Ministry said Tuesday that entry permits had been issued to 3,000 more Palestinian merchants, raising the total number to 10,000.

Another 16,500 Palestinian laborers enter Israel daily for construction and other jobs.

Israel said it is easing up on travel restrictions as part of efforts to relieve poverty in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

## NORTH AMERICA

### Energy pact passes committee

A U.S. House of Representatives committee approved legislation to push for alternative energy solutions through joint American-Israeli research.

The House Committee on Energy and Commerce passed the United States-Israel Energy Cooperation Act by voice vote Tuesday, reflecting its bipartisan support. The legislation could be voted on by the full House as early as next week.

The bill would establish a \$20 million annual grant program — administered by the U.S. Department of Energy — to fund joint ventures between U.S. and Israeli businesses and academics.

The Senate version of the bill has been referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

### Public Hitler memorial abandoned

A Wisconsin man reportedly is giving up his plan to turn some of his farm into a public memorial to Hitler.

After pressure from local officials, Ted Junker, who says he served in the German army in World War II, said he would keep the memorial private. Junker had said he wanted to clear up "inaccuracies" about the Nazi leader.

### Groups fight Jews for Jesus

Several Jewish groups are launching a campaign to counter one by Jews for Jesus.

A Baltimore-based group, Jews for Judaism, is working with the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, the Jewish Federation of New York and the New York Board of Rabbis to oppose the "grand finale" of the Behold Your God campaign that Jews for Jesus is running in the New York area. Brochures, books and fliers are available at <http://www.jewsforjudaism.org>.

## WORLD

### Youngest Zionist chief since Herzl elected

The Zionist Congress elected what is believed to be its youngest president since Theodor Herzl.

Yoel Hasson, 33, a lawmaker from Israel's ruling Kadima Party, took the top slot Tuesday in a vote at the 35th Zionist Congress.

Herzl was 37 when he became president of the first congress in 1897. Hasson said he would push to enrich Jewish education in the Diaspora.