

**IN THE NEWS**
**Israel strikes  
Haniyeh's offices**

Israel's air force destroyed the Palestinian Authority prime minister's Gaza office.

Ismail Haniyeh, a Hamas leader, was not in his Gaza City office when it was attacked by Israel's helicopter gunships early Sunday.

A separate airstrike on a Hamas militia headquarters killed a member of the Palestinian terrorist group.

**Ehud Olmert  
against hostage trade**

Ehud Olmert vowed not to yield to ransom demands of Palestinians who abducted an Israeli soldier.

"We have no intention of yielding to any form of extortion," the prime minister told his Cabinet on Sunday, a week after Cpl. Gilad Shalit was kidnapped in a deadly raid across the Gaza border by Palestinian gunmen.

The captors have demanded the release of hundreds of Palestinians from Israeli jails in exchange for Shalit.

**U.N. rights council OKs  
anti-Israel resolution**

The United Nations' new Human Rights Council passed an anti-Israel resolution.

Last Friday's resolution, the only country-specific resolution passed, makes alleged Israel's human rights violations and the "occupation" of Palestinian and other Arab territories a talking point at all future meetings.

Twenty-nine of the council's 47 countries voted for the resolution, 12 voted against, five abstained and one did not vote.

Twenty-one countries also requested an emergency special session on the "escalating violence in Palestine," expected to be held late this week.

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# WORLD REPORT

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## Atlanta Jewish community has soared in the past decade

By RACHEL POMERANCE

**A**TTLANTA (JTA) — When Rabbi Mario Karpuj and Analia Bortz chose to leave South America in search of a stable country and a vibrant Jewish community, the couple weighed two U.S. cities: Atlanta and New York.

When they visited Atlanta, they fell "in love with the community," Karpuj said, noting the variety of Jewish day schools for the couple's daughters and the fact that so many others were making Atlanta their home.

"This was the place to be," he said. The couple moved in 2000.

After starting a Conservative, egalitarian congregation that he and his wife co-officiate, Karpuj has seen membership soar from 50 people to nearly 300 in two and a half years.

When they applied through the Conservative movement to start the congregation and lead it, some 15 applications were submitted in just three days for the same position.

Such popularity is "unheard of," Karpuj said, suggesting it reflects the draw of Atlanta.

Atlanta's Jewish population has risen by 60 percent in the past decade, to 120,000.

A recent survey of the community could provide insight into a new landscape of American Jewry, says Jack Ukeles, a New York-based demographer who conducted the survey for the Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta and compared the findings to a study he conducted a decade earlier.

"It represents a much larger trend of dramatic shifts that continue between the

older, more settled Jewish communities of the Midwest and Northeast and the newer communities of the South and the West," Ukeles said.

National Jewish agenda-setting should include helping new communities cope with their growth, he said.

At the same time, Atlanta is unusual — a "hybrid community" of natives and newcomers, which creates challenges for integration while providing certain benefits of establishment such as certain institutions that are already in place, Ukeles said.

"For us, the opportunities of growth in Atlanta are tempered by the challenge of quickly and meaningfully engaging newcomers in the Atlanta Jewish community," said Steven Rakitt, CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta.

Rakitt expressed concern over findings that showed low affiliation rates and the lengthy period of time it takes for people to feel connected to the Jewish community.

"Those are things that we collectively as a community need to pay attention to, because we are a community of newcomers," he said.

But the picture Ukeles draws is not one of old and new Atlantans splitting the community in two. As the city has sprawled in many directions, so has its Jewish community — which, according to Ukeles' data, has concentrated itself in seven distinct areas.

One of the study's most striking observations underscores a key theme — Atlanta Jewry's twin challenges of geography and integration. In one neighborhood hub for Jewish organizations, the intermarriage rate is only 10 percent, while in a more

*Continued on page 2*

## ■ Atlanta's Jewish community is an unusual hybrid of natives and newcomers

*Continued from page 1*

distant suburb, 80 percent of Jews are intermarried.

The community has grown in proportion to the city's general population. A decade ago, Jewish households made up 4.4 percent of the total population; now, the number is 4.3 percent.

Additionally, those who come to Atlanta plan to stay, Ukeles found. Only 3 percent said they were likely to move in the next few years, meaning growth should continue for some time.

"Atlanta's got the right combination of history and youth and energy and space and the right economy," said Michael Jacobs, editor of the Atlanta Jewish Times. "There's no reason to think Atlanta's going to slow down."

For longtime community members, news of growth is not surprising.

"We've seen it coming," said Sherry Frank, executive director of the American Jewish Committee's Atlanta chapter for 25 years. "It's really a boom town."

Still, Frank was startled to realize the density of Jews in an area where Jewish activity is less concentrated. Given the city's traffic congestion, an event's location can make all the difference.

"I think it's a wake-up call to us to expand everything we're doing," to make Jewish life accessible to Jews all over the city, she said.

With 680 students, the Alfred and Adele Davis Academy is the largest Reform day school in the country, claims Sidney Kirschner, the head of the school.

But despite the emergence and growth of Jewish schooling, 2,000 Jewish students attend day school in Atlanta, which signals a lag, he said.

"Part of the reason it hasn't kept pace" is because the institutions are not sufficiently spread out to reach the population, Kirschner said.

Jacobs, the newspaper editor — who moved to Atlanta just last year — thinks the community is overly concerned about low affiliation rates.

"Affiliation is crucial," as is outreach, he said. But worrying about the

affiliation rate is a mistake, Jacobs added, because community members are young and haven't put down roots yet.

"It takes a while to get to know what's here and where you want to join up."

Of greater concern is uniting a dispersed population.

"The only things that are holding us together across all these different counties and towns is the actual Jewishness that we have," he said. The community must thicken those strands to "to tie everybody together." ■

## Washington remembers the rebbe

By RON KAMPEAS

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Twelve years after Menachem Mendel Schneerson died, his followers and admirers in Chabad-Lubavitch delivered his message to Washington's highest echelons.

The timeless themes of education, security for Israel and reaching out to other faiths still resound, organizers said.

Speakers including Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel, Talmudic scholar Adin Steinsaltz and radio host Dennis Prager interacted with top Bush administration officials at the Tuesday-Wednesday event marking the Lubavitcher rebbe's yahrzeit.

The theme of the event, which attracted more than 300 Chabad

officials from around the world, as well as diplomats and lawmakers, was education.

If that appeared broad, it was because "we're here to convey a message and not press a particular opinion," said Rabbi Levi Shemtov, director of American Friends of Lubavitch.

In a closed briefing, Michael Chertoff, the Bush administration's Jewish Homeland Security secretary, told the gathering that education was key in preparing Americans for the battle against terrorism.

"Education creates awareness, and awareness creates defense" was Chertoff's message, according to those attending.

Wiesel said that shortly before Schneerson died, he had warned Wiesel that it was imperative for the West to engage Islamic religious leaders before Western and Islamic worldviews diverged too far.

The conference culminated in a White

House briefing by Joshua Bolten, President Bush's chief of staff, who also is Jewish. Bolten said Bush would never encourage Israel to give up territory without a Palestinian quid pro quo.

Administration officials attending included Gregg Rickman, the top anti-Semitism official at the State Department, and Edward O'Donnell, who deals with Holocaust

**'I've dedicated the better part of my life to healing human bodies. You dedicate the better part of your lives to healing the human soul.'**

**U.S. Sen. Bill Frist (R-Tenn.)**

restitution.

Other speakers included Sen. Bill Frist (R-Tenn.), the Senate majority leader.

"I'm a physician. I've dedicated the better part of my life to healing human bodies," Frist told the assembled Chabad emissaries. "You dedicate the better part of your lives to healing the human soul."

Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.) was scheduled to speak, but was caught in traffic generated by flooding. Also appearing was the Australian defense minister, Brendan Nelson. ■

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# Polish politician claims he's misunderstood

By DINAH A. SPRITZER

PRAGUE (JTA) — Known at home as the farmer's fanatical friend and known abroad for praising Hitler's economic policies, Andrzej Lepper says he has been misquoted, misunderstood and misused.

Yes, Poland's deputy prime minister is a permanently tanned populist, former pig farmer and agricultural union chief who blockaded roads in 1990s protests, poured manure on local officials and accused the central bank of committing

## THIS WEEK

### MONDAY

■ The "Civil G8," a forum for nongovernmental organizations that convenes to plot strategy ahead of the annual G-8 industrial nations, meets in Moscow. The International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation will use the forum to press Russia on the fate of the Swedish diplomat who saved hundreds of thousands of Jews and who disappeared from Soviet-occupied Budapest.

■ A summer camp aimed at building interest in baseball in Israel continues through July 13. Former Jewish major leaguers Elliott Maddox and Bob Tufts are among the camp's instructors. The camp is part of a project that hopes to field a professional league in Israel in the summer of 2007. For more information, go to <http://www.iab.org.il/camp06.htm>.

■ Birthright Israel and the Israel Democracy Institute bring 120 young Jewish innovators ages 18-32 from around the world to Jerusalem for a three-day conference to jump-start new projects dealing with Jewish identity.

■ Pro-Palestinian groups launch the first "Bridges to Roots" summer camp in a village in northern Israel, which will bring together young people to train in pro-Palestinian advocacy.

### TUESDAY

■ The 30th anniversary of Operation Entebbe is marked. In 1976, Israeli commandos rescued some 100 Israelis and Jews taken hostage by pro-Palestinian terrorists, who hijacked their plane to Idi Amin's Uganda.

### WEDNESDAY

■ The alliance of major powers pressing Iran to open up its nuclear programs to international inspectors expects an answer to its incentives-or-sanctions proposal. Iran has said it will not answer before August.

■ Abdullah Gul, the Turkish deputy prime minister and foreign minister, meets with Condoleezza Rice, the U.S. secretary of state.

economic genocide against Poles.

No, he claims, he never said, "The most dangerous nation for the Poles is the Jewish nation... They are plotting intrigues everywhere." The quote was attributed to him by the periodical *Nowiny* in 1995.

Asked if he is an anti-Semite, Lepper says, "I am a Pole, I am tolerant of various minority groups."

He characterizes his party, Self-Defense, as "left-wing patriots" who "support tolerance."

Lepper, 52, who is also the country's agriculture minister, is not Poland's only demonized politician: Another is Roman Giertych, 35, a right-wing advocate of a Catholic-oriented Poland.

Giertych is loathed by liberals, intellectuals and, particularly, gays, whom members of his party accuse of trying to spread their "disease."

Giertych and Lepper frequently are paired together in media articles describing Poland's alleged turn for the worse, meaning the decision in April to welcome two parties with extreme anti-E.U. stances into the government coalition.

Giertych, now education minister, wants to increase patriotic and religious education in schools, which essentially means Catholic lessons. He also is honorary chairman of the xenophobic All Polish Youth, whose skinhead adherents have been photographed giving the Nazi salute.

But what of Lepper, whose party in the early 1990s included neo-Nazis and skinheads?

A former communist, Lepper is more popular than Giertych. Self-Defense consistently polls at 10 percent, twice the rate of support for Giertych's League of Polish Families. Lepper came in third in the 2005 presidential election with 15 percent of the vote, up from 1.3 percent in 1995.

Observers agree that Lepper has spruced up his and his party's image at a remarkable rate. He admits that some of his party's earlier adherents held anti-Se-

mitic views, but insists they're no longer welcome.

"I want to let Jews know that they can be sure that in our party we throw out anybody who shows anti-Semitic attitudes," he said during an interview last month at his office. "We threw out those who were distributing such leaflets, and they shouldn't be welcome anywhere."

But Piotr Kadlczik, chairman of the Union of Religious Jews in Poland, says there's no doubt that some of Lepper's

supporters come from a nationalist, anti-Semitic base.

"Lepper, he is the kind of person who if it fits his purpose to use anti-Semitism, he would use it. I don't think he has a personal

opinion on this issue. He is extremely pragmatic," Kadlczik said. "He is a very interesting person, he went a long way in a short time. He could cause more trouble than Giertych."

Lepper says police should combat anti-Semitism when they see it, "just as they should protect me from debasement when cartoons appear portraying me as an SS man."

Some of these portrayals stem from his past contacts and cooperation with controversial figures like U.S. political activist Lyndon LaRouche; Jan Kobyłanski, a Uruguay-based millionaire who reportedly collaborated with the Nazis; and Leszek Bubel, Poland's best-known publisher of anti-Semitic books and leaflets, including "The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion."

In a more current controversy, Lepper accepted an award from MAUP in Ukraine in April. He says he had no idea the school is one of the biggest sources of anti-Semitic literature in Ukraine.

"Why should I be sorry for this?" he asked. "I did not receive this degree for promoting anti-Semitic slogans. I got the degree for promoting and developing economic cooperation with Ukraine."

When told that some Jewish leaders want him to return his award, Lepper called them "Jewish extremist" groups. ■

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES

Lepper is unapologetic about accepting an honorary degree from MAUP, one of the biggest sources of anti-Semitic literature in Ukraine.

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## WORLD

### Vatican to open archives

The Vatican will open archives covering the period 1922-1939. The period covers the papacy of Pope Pius XI, and ends just before the ascendance of Pope Pius XII, who has been accused of turning a blind eye to Nazi treatment of the Jews.

However, some papers could shed light on the activities of Pius XII when he was a papal envoy to Germany and then the Vatican's secretary of state.

Among other actions, he negotiated a Vatican treaty with Germany at the onset of Nazi rule and was believed to favor accommodation with the Nazis.

The BBC, which reported the plans to open the archive, said it will be limited to scholars.

### Kielce monument to be unveiled

A memorial to Holocaust survivors killed and wounded in Kielce, Poland after World War II will be unveiled there.

The city of Kielce and the U.S. Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad are financing the memorial, to be unveiled Tuesday.

On that day in 1946, residents killed more than 40 Jews who had returned to the town after the war to reclaim their property.

The massacre consolidated the perception among survivors that they couldn't return to Poland.

### Court rules in SS case

The European Court of Human Rights ruled in favor of an Austrian legislator whom police prohibited from demonstrating against a group of former SS men.

The court said last Friday that the Green Party legislator's right to assembly was violated in 1998 when police in Salzburg banned his counterdemonstration against former SS men commemorating their dead at a local cemetery.

Police were concerned about a potential violent confrontation that would disturb visitors to the cemetery on All Saints' Day, when many Europeans visit ancestors' graves.

Karl Oellinger, the legislator, had wanted to hold a commemoration for Salzburg Jews killed by the SS at the same time as the SS commemoration.

## NORTH AMERICA

### Bush extends PLO office waiver

President Bush extended a waiver on a law that would shut down the PLO office in Washington.

In a letter sent last Friday to Condoleezza Rice, the U.S. secretary of state, Bush extended the waiver for another six months.

The U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill last month that would tighten restrictions on the president's ability to impose such waivers. It has yet to be considered in conference with the Senate.

### Ad calls for U.S.-Israel 'realignment'

A full-page advertisement in The New York Times calls for a "realignment" of the U.S.-Israel relationship.

The ad, placed by the Council for the National Interest, plays on the term for Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's plan to unilaterally set Israel's West Bank border with the Palestinians.

The ad, which ran Sunday, calls on the Bush administration to encourage Israel to return to its pre-1967 boundaries, and calls for a reconsideration of U.S. assistance to Israel.

### Lautenberg apologizes for Dubai remark

A Jewish senator apologized to an Arab American group for comparing Dubai to the devil. Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.) was among lawmakers who helped defeat a plan to hand management of six major U.S. ports to a Dubai-owned company.

"We wouldn't transfer the title to the devil; we're not going to transfer it to Dubai," Lautenberg said earlier this year.

He apologized in a letter to the Arab American Institute after meeting with its representatives.

"I have respect for our Arab American community and want to work to foster a positive relationship," the letter said.

"I believe our discussion clearly confirmed that we have a great deal in common regarding our families, our security policies, and our country."

Another Jewish lawmaker, Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), compared the proposed sale to dealing with skinheads.

He has refused the institute's calls on him to apologize.

## MIDDLE EAST

### Indonesians protest Israeli actions

Thousands of Indonesian Muslims demonstrated in Jakarta against Israel's military actions in the Gaza Strip.

Some of the demonstrators at Sunday's rally, held outside the U.S. Embassy, held posters with pictures of Sheik Ahmed Yassin, a Muslim cleric and Hamas leader Israel killed in 2004, Reuters reported.

Late last week, Muslims in Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and Turkey also rallied against Israel's actions in Gaza.

### Israeli troops stage fake kidnappings

Israel's military police is rounding up soldiers deemed not sufficiently wary of the kidnapping threat.

Military policemen posing as ordinary motorists are this week cruising Israel, trying to pick up soldiers who hitchhike in violation of strict rules against the practice, security sources said. Violators could be court-martialed.

The move comes following the recent abduction of an Israeli soldier, a rash of kidnapping threats against Israeli troops and the abduction and murder of a West Bank settler teen.

### Israel: Kidnapping plot foiled

Israel's security service said it foiled a Palestinian plot to kidnap soldiers.

The Shin Bet disclosed Sunday that last month it arrested two members of the Popular Resistance Committees terrorist group who had slipped out of the Gaza Strip into the Sinai Desert, and from there into Israel.

Under interrogation, the detainees said they had intended to kidnap two Israeli soldiers and ransom them for the release of Palestinians held in Israeli jails.

But according to the Shin Bet, the terrorists planned to kill the kidnapped soldiers and bury them in unmarked graves rather than release them.

### Greenpeace praises Israel over whaling

Greenpeace International praised Israel's stand on whaling.

Last month, Israel signed an accord against the controversial practice, helping opponents defeat Japan's efforts to loosen up the ban at a meeting of the International Whaling Commission.

Sources in Jerusalem said Greenpeace recently wrote Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni and Environment Minister Gideon Ezra, praising them for their "pivotal role" in maintaining the ban.