

## IN THE NEWS

**Two Palestinians die at Gaza-Egypt border**

Two Palestinians reportedly died while stranded in intense heat on the closed Egypt-Gaza border. Egyptian health and security officials told Reuters that an 18-month-old boy died of heat stroke Tuesday and a 19-year-old woman died while standing in line.

The Egypt-Gaza terminal at Rafah has been closed since Palestinian militants kidnapped an Israeli soldier two weeks ago. There have been four deaths since the closure began.

**Haniyeh: Existence of Israel raises issues**

Israel must resolve issues raised by its existence to bring about peace, the Palestinian Authority prime minister said. It's not enough for Israel to address its occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, Ismail Haniyeh wrote Tuesday in *The Washington Post*.

"If Israel is prepared to negotiate seriously and fairly, and resolve the core 1948 issues, rather than the secondary ones from 1967, a fair and permanent peace is possible," wrote Haniyeh, who heads Hamas, which rejects Israel's existence.

**Senator decries anti-terror funding cuts**

Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.) denounced the elimination of federal funding that would protect high-risk non-profit institutions from terrorist attacks.

The senator on Tuesday criticized cuts to the 2007 Homeland Security spending bill. Mikulski has joined Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) in introducing an amendment to the legislation that includes \$25 million for institutions that provide vital health, social, cultural and educational services.

The amendment is now under consideration in the Senate. The United Jewish Communities, the Orthodox Union and the American Jewish Congress all have supported Mikulski's efforts.

# WORLD REPORT

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## Mugging in Washington robs Jewish world of young leader

By DAVID J. SILVERMAN

**W**ASHINGTON (JTA) — The killers who took Alan Senitt's life robbed the Jewish world of a young leader dedicated to Jewish survival and coexistence, his friends, colleagues and family said.

Senitt, 27, a rising star in British communal life and Labor Party politics, was stabbed to death in Washington while escorting a young woman friend home before dawn Sunday.

"He was right at the center, a key up-and-coming young leader," said Danny Stone, a friend who succeeded Senitt last month as director of the Co-Existence Trust, a London-based group that fosters Jewish-Muslim relations worldwide. "He was very valuable, seen as someone who would be heading up the community in the future."

London's *Jewish Chronicle* in 2003 said of him, "There is, it has to be said, something of the Tony Blair about Alan Senitt."

Senitt emerged as an eloquent spokesman for Britain's Jews and on behalf of Israel as chairman of the Union of Jewish Students in the early part of the decade, a time when the intifada was raging and Israel was taking a drubbing in British public opinion.

Leaving the Union of Jewish Students post in 2003, he urged Jewish students to speak as "one community, one voice, one people," and signed his open letter, "Proud to be a Zionist, proud to be a Jew."

Most of all, he told the *Jewish Chronicle* in 2003, he loved nurturing a sense of belonging among his fellow Jewish students.

"The thing that touches me the most is seeing the people who have come up through the

Union of Jewish Students system," he told the *Chronicle*.

His legacy lives on, the current UJS chairman said.

"Alan will be remembered with a smile on his face, as someone who valued the opinion of youth and cared deeply about the British Jewish community," Jonathan Levy said in a statement.

After leaving the UJS, Senitt launched a career that straddled pro-Israel activism, politics and inter-communal dialogue.

His model was Lord Greville Janner, a British Jewish leader and a former Labor Party member of Parliament. Working in Janner's office, he helped set up the International Council of Jewish Parliamentarians.

"Alan was a kind, dedicated and good person, a young man with enormous potential and great hopes for trying to build a better world," said Rep. Gary Ackerman (D-NY), president of the International Council of Jewish Parliamentarians. "Alan devoted himself to a life in politics and inter-communal dialogue because he understood that it is only by effort and commitment that the wounds of our world can be knit up."

Senitt's pro-Israel commitment found an outlet in his work for the All-Party British-Israel Parliamentary Group and the British Israel Communications and Research Centre.

His concerns did not stop with the Jewish community: He was founding director of the Co-Existence Trust, which enlists Jewish and Muslim parliamentarians to speak out against anti-Semitism and Islamophobia and provides

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BEHIND  
THE  
HEADLINES

## ■ The young leader's life was dedicated to Jewish survival and coexistence

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a forum for moderate leaders.

"I think it shows how committed he was to turning words into action, making things happen," said Stone, his successor in the job. "He actually wanted to see people getting together."

One of Senitt's last acts for the trust was to organize a tour of Persian Gulf states in February. "He was very bright, he kept me working," Janner told JTA. With Jordan's Prince Hassan, Janner was co-leader of the tour. "I'm torn apart by this."

The next logical step for Senitt was a career in politics.

He lost an election for a London council seat in May. Casting around for another opportunity, the avid "West Wing" fan heard through friends in Washington's pro-Israel community that Mark Warner, the former Virginia governor considering a run for the Democratic presidential nomination, was looking for interns for his political action committee. Senitt arrived three weeks ago.

Ellen Qualls, spokeswoman for Forward Together, the Warner political action committee, told JTA that Senitt, who was working on the finance team, was learning political organization-building skills that he would apply to efforts in London aimed at fostering cooperation between Israel and Britain.

Around 2:30 a.m. on Sunday, three men brandishing a gun and a knife attacked Senitt and the woman he was accompanying outside her apartment in a tony Georgetown neighborhood. Senitt was stabbed and his throat was slit while the woman

staggered away alive. The assailants fled in a waiting getaway vehicle.

Police charged four people — two adult men, a minor male and a woman — with murder, and one with attempted rape.

The crime sent shockwaves through Georgetown, a neighborhood not used to such violence.

According to The Washington Post, police believe that one assailant, Jeffery Rice, 22, stabbed Senitt, who advised his companion to give up her valuables. The woman, allegedly held at gunpoint by another assailant, did so, according to the police, but Rice allegedly slit Senitt's throat. Police say Rice had told his accomplices that he was intent on "cutting" somebody.

Police tracked the suspects because they had tips from earlier attacks in northwest Washington. The alleged assailants dined at a Wendy's restaurant after the attack.

"This is one of the most brutal acts I've seen in my 19 years of police work," the Post quoted Cmdr. Andy Solberg as saying.

It is also an act that will rebound for

years to come, Senitt's family said in a statement.

"The Jewish community as a whole has lost one of its bright young leaders, and the wider world has lost a champion of peace and goodwill," the family said.

His death was almost unimaginable, said Shai Franklin, director of international organizations for the World Jewish Congress, who worked closely with Senitt.

"He was the kind of person I thought I would be working with and spending time with for many years to come," Franklin said. "The type I thought I would be sharing community and global initiatives with."

Janner, choking back tears as he drove home past Buckingham Palace on Tuesday evening, told JTA that he received a post-humous message from his young aide and friend: Tuesday was Janner's birthday, and a souvenir baseball cap inscribed with his name arrived. "A happy year ahead," Senitt had scribbled on the accompanying card. ■

*Washington bureau chief Ron Kampeas contributed to this story.*

**'The wider world has lost a champion of peace and goodwill.'**  
**Senitt family**

## Probe looks at AMIA cover-up

BUENOS AIRES (JTA) — As the 12th anniversary nears of the bombing of a Jewish center in Buenos Aires, Argentina's Jewish community is focusing on investigations into the country's former president and one of his Cabinet ministers.

Once divided over the complexities of the probe into the July 18, 1994, attack at the AMIA center, the Jewish community is calling for a full investigation of former President Carlos Menem and his interior minister, Carlos Corach, for allegedly preventing an impartial investigation into the case.

If the probe never gets to the bottom of the AMIA attack, which killed 85 people and wounded 300, it should help determine if and why there was a conspiracy to convict innocent people in the original AMIA trial. Was it total incompetence or a frame-up?

Increasingly, it seems that Federal Judge Ariel Lijo may call in Menem for interrogation.

A brief submitted late last month by Menem's former intelligence chief, Hugo Anzorreguy, directly implicated Menem

in a \$400,000 payoff apparently made by Judge Juan Jose Galeano to one of the key witnesses to alter his testimony and finger Buenos Aires police officials in the bombing.

The three-year trial — conducted by a three-judge body — of those police officials ended in 2003 with across-the-board acquittals. The final verdict also called for a full investigation of Galeano, two of his prosecutors, three top intelligence officials, the top Jewish community leader, and the witness who received the payment. Galeano was impeached from the bench last year.

Lijo is investigating the irregularities, which go far beyond the money believed to have been paid to the witness. Among other charges are the burning of evidence such as audiotapes and videotapes of interrogations; not protecting evidence such as rubble from the demolished building, which was dumped into the river after the bombing; utilizing ex-torturers and human rights violators as paid investigators of the court; conducting illegal wiretaps and not protecting the crime scene. ■

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# Deal possible in Gaza crisis?

By LESLIE SUSSER

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Two weeks after the abduction of Cpl. Gilad Shalit, hardline rhetoric on both sides suggests that Israel and the Palestinians are on course for a major military showdown.

But the public posturing could be part of a covert negotiating process: Egypt and Turkey are both trying to mediate and, according to some reports, a deal acceptable to both sides may be shaping up.

Both Israel and Hamas have good reasons for wanting to cut a deal. But they also have strategic goals that could prolong the fighting.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert spoke of "a war for which it is impossible to set a timetable," and the head of the Israel Defense Forces' Southern Command Chief, Maj.-Gen. Yoav Galant, said it could take months.

There was tough talk on the Palestinian side, too: Khaled Meshaal, Hamas' Damascus-based leader, insisted Monday that Shalit would be released only in a swap for Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, an exchange Israel refuses to contemplate for fear that it would encourage more kidnappings.

Briefing the Cabinet Sunday, Defense Minister Amir Peretz outlined Israeli goals that could lead to an extended campaign. Operation Summer Rains, he said, has three strategic aims: freeing Shalit, stopping Kassam rocket fire on Israeli civilians and dealing Hamas a decisive political and military blow.

The last of these goals, inhibiting Hamas' capacity to make war, means destroying arms caches, tunnels and workshops where Kassam rockets are produced and targeting Hamas militiamen.

In optimal conditions, all this would take time. But there are certain time constraints on Israeli action — fear for Shalit's life, unwillingness to exacerbate humanitarian conditions in Gaza and a need to maintain international support — all of which dictate a slow and careful modus operandi.

Hamas also has strategic goals that could prolong the crisis. According to Israeli intelligence, Hamas aims to humiliate Israel by forcing a prisoner exchange that would establish the organization as a major regional player and convince Israelis that

the unilateral disengagement Olmert plans for the West Bank is not feasible.

On the tactical level, the IDF wants to draw out Hamas militias and engage them in battle, while Hamas wants to stay hidden and suck Israeli forces deeper and deeper into Gaza. This also makes for a time-consuming stand-off.

On the other hand, both Israel and Hamas stand to gain from an early deal. Israel would get Shalit and a Hamas commitment to a long cease-fire, including a cessation of Kassam rocket fire.

The government, particularly Olmert and Defense Minister Amir Peretz, would gain in prestige.

Hamas, for its part, would get Palestinian prisoners, Israeli recognition that the group can't be ignored, an end to targeted assassinations of leading terrorists and adulation on the Palestinian street.

Egyptian and Turkish mediators are working on plans along these lines. According to former Palestinian Authority Foreign Minister Nabil Shaath, the Egyptian plan is staggered to make it more palatable to the Israelis.

In the first stage, the Palestinians would release Shalit and in return Israel would call off its military campaign and withdraw forces from Gaza. Both sides then would declare a long-term cease-fire, including the cessation of Kassam rocket fire and Israeli targeted killings; finally, at a later date, Israel would release Palestinian prisoners as a gesture to P.A. President Mahmoud Abbas and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

That momentum could lead to talks on a permanent peace deal between Israel and the Palestinians and the establishment of a Palestinian state, Shaath says.

Over the weekend P.A. Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh called for an end to hostilities based on a similar plan, but he reversed the order: First Israel would withdraw in return for a total cease-fire, and only then would the two sides begin negotiations on Shalit's release.

When Israel rejected this proposal out of hand, Meshaal called a press conference in Damascus to reiterate that there would be no deal unless Israel released Palestinian prisoners.

Where Haniyeh, ensconced in Gaza, sounded like a man desperate to stop the Israeli military advance, Meshaal seemed full of confidence that Hamas would win in the end.

The outcome of the power struggle between Haniyeh and Meshaal — or between Hamas leaders in the territories and those abroad — could determine how long the Israeli offensive continues.

There are differences on the Israeli side, too. Some Cabinet ministers and generals maintain that Olmert and Peretz, civilians with little military background, are moving too slowly on the military front. The generals see the thrust into northern Gaza to stop the Kassams as just the beginning of a much larger operation to smash Hamas militias, and want a green light to move as soon as possible.

Olmert and Peretz retort that injudiciously increasing military pressure could endanger Shalit's life. So far they've been able to stand up to generals champing at the bit

to commit greater forces to the fighting.

The two leaders also can claim some success: Hamas reportedly has lost around 50 fighters, and, according to some reports, is already running out of Kassams.

Still, some Cabinet ministers also are unhappy with the government's careful approach. One of the most outspoken critics is Internal Security Minister Avi Dichter, a former head of the Shin Bet security service. Dichter says the government should immediately order the army to stop the Kassam rocket fire, using whatever means necessary.

He also suggests that Olmert consider a modified disengagement plan, evacuating West Bank settlements but leaving behind soldiers to quash any resurgence of terrorism. Dichter's formula would lead to an immediate escalation in fighting, but possibly to a shorter campaign.

The differences in the Israeli and Palestinian camps highlight the central paradox of Summer Rains: Given the two sides' strategic aims, which aren't easy to achieve, the crisis could drag on for months. But precisely because of the mutual distaste for a protracted operation, ongoing mediation attempts could just succeed, against all odds. ■

## NEWS ANALYSIS

Both Israel and Hamas stand to gain from an early deal.

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## NORTH AMERICA

### White House replies to rabbis' letter

The White House told a dovish pro-Israel group that it would not provide assistance to the Palestinian Authority while it is ruled by Hamas.

The letter, dated June 26 but received by Brit Tzedek v'Shalom on Monday, was in reply to a March letter initiated by the group and signed by more than 400 rabbis. It urged President Bush to continue providing the Palestinians with emergency humanitarian assistance and to engage Palestinian moderates.

The White House reiterated its refusal to provide aid to the Hamas-led Palestinian government unless Hamas recognizes Israel's right to exist and abandons terrorism. It also said the president would continue to work with Mahmoud Abbas, the relative moderate from the Fatah Party who serves as P.A. president.

### Jewish teens lobby in Washington

Nearly 200 Jewish teenagers are lobbying in Washington.

The Young Judaeans, from Camp Tel Yehudah in upstate New York, participated Monday in a rally at the Syrian Embassy calling for the release of kidnapped Israeli soldier Cpl. Gilad Shalit.

They later heard a speech from Israeli Embassy spokeswoman Jordana Luks and visited the Holocaust Museum. The teens were scheduled to visit the White House and U.S. House of Representatives and Senate offices Tuesday to lobby on behalf of Israel and for action to stop violence in the Darfur region of Sudan. Panim: The Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values is coordinating the trip.

### Report on Chasidic cop untrue

A report that the New York Police Department had admitted a fervently Orthodox man to its academy is untrue. Brooklyn native Joel Witriol applied to the academy, which began its latest training Monday, but was not accepted, as the New York Post erroneously reported. Witriol did not have enough college credits to be accepted into the program. He may reapply at a later date.

## MIDDLE EAST

### Groups petition High Court on crossings

Six Israeli groups petitioned the country's High Court, calling for Israel to open Gaza Strip crossings for humanitarian reasons.

The groups want the crossings to be opened to allow regular supplies of fuel, food, medicine and equipment to the Palestinians.

Israel regularly shuts down the crossings because of terrorism alerts, but has occasionally opened them to keep emergency aid flowing.

### Israeli president part of probe

Israel's attorney general opened a probe into an alleged attempt to blackmail President Moshe Katsav. Menachem Mazuz made the decision Tuesday.

Details of the case are in dispute, but it apparently involves a former employee's attempt to extort money from Katsav.

### Threats made over Jerusalem gay parade

Unidentified vigilantes called for attacks on next month's gay pride parade in Jerusalem.

Fliers distributed Tuesday in several religious districts of Jerusalem offered a \$4,500 bounty for anyone who "brings about the death of the denizens of Sodom and Gomorrah," a reference to the WorldPride 2006 events scheduled to take place in the holy city Aug. 6-12.

It was unclear who wrote the fliers; police said a probe is under way. Jewish, Christian and Muslim clergymen and rightist Israeli politicians have been trying to block the parade or have it moved to Tel Aviv.

A smaller gay parade in Jerusalem last year saw a stabbing attack by an Orthodox Jew in which three people were injured.

### Minister criticizes West Bank plan

A senior Israeli official came out against Ehud Olmert's West Bank pullout plan.

Housing and Construction Minister Meir Sheetrit, considered an Olmert rival in the governing Kadima Party, said Monday that the current Gaza crisis made it unlikely that a unilateral redeployment could be implemented in the West Bank.

"The chances of carrying out the realignment plan right now are very slim," Sheetrit told the Knesset Channel.

"There are lots of misgivings, including my own. I don't believe in unilateral separation."

Sheetrit's was the most vocal of critiques increasingly heard in Kadima against Olmert's policies vis-a-vis the Palestinians.

### Israel: No change for Arab-American tourists

There has been no change in visa procedures for Americans and Europeans of Palestinian descent who want to visit Israel as tourists, Israel said.

A recent article in Ha'aretz and anecdotal reports from Arab Americans said Israel was preventing Palestinians who are citizens of other nations from entering.

The Arab American Institute threatened to sue Israel, accusing it of violating a commerce treaty with the United States.

An official at the Israeli Embassy in Washington said Tuesday that the difficulty applies only to Palestinians who are entering Israel or the West Bank as residents of the West Bank.

Those Palestinians are required by agreements with the Palestinian Authority to obtain permission to enter from the authority, but Israel does not currently deal with P.A. officials because the authority is led by Hamas, a terrorist group.

Palestinian Americans who wish to enter Israel as tourists should have no problem, the embassy official said.

### Koizumi visits Israel

Japan's prime minister is visiting Israel. Junichiro Koizumi is scheduled to meet this week with Israeli President Moshe Katsav and Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, as well as Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and Jordanian King Abdullah II.

During his trip, the first by a Japanese prime minister to Israel in 11 years, Koizumi is expected to offer humanitarian aid to the Palestinians.

## WORLD

### S. African coalition wants diplomatic change

A coalition of South African organizations called on the government to cut ties with Israel.

The coalition also called on consumers to boycott Israeli products because of the conflict with the Palestinians, South African Business Day reported.

### World Cup graffiti condemned

Italy's prime minister denounced anti-Semitic graffiti scrawled during celebrations after Italy's World Cup victory.

Romano Prodi condemned the graffiti, which went up Monday in Rome, in a letter to Italy's main Jewish group.