



IN THE NEWS

Israel destroys Iranian-made missile

Israel said it destroyed an Iranian-made, long-range missile in Lebanon.

The Zelzal missile that Israel said it destroyed can reach Tel Aviv. Israel also announced that troops had established a fortified position in Ghajar, a region in southern Lebanon.

Four Israelis were wounded Monday when a rocket hit a public building in Safed. Another rocket landed next to a medical institution in the Galilee. More than 50 Lebanese died in Israeli strikes Monday, according to Lebanese officials.

Olmert sets terms for violence's end

Ehud Olmert defended Israel's military offensive in Lebanon.

In his first Knesset address since Hezbollah sparked the severe crisis, the Israeli prime minister set three terms for a cessation of violence: that the two hostages are returned, cross-border rocket salvos and other attacks cease and Hezbollah is disbanded in accordance with U.N. Security Council Resolution 1559.

Thousands rally to support Israel

Several thousand people rallied in New York City to show American support for Israel. Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.), Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel and Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, Dan Gillerman, were among the speakers Monday defending Israel's military operations in Lebanon and its campaign against terrorism.

Clinton condemned the "unwarranted, unprovoked attacks from Hamas, Hezbollah and their state sponsors," calling these groups "the new totalitarians of the 21st century." She added: "We will stand with Israel because Israel is standing for American values as well as Israeli ones."

WORLD REPORT

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As Israelis hole up in shelters, they're scared, bored and angry

By LARRY LUXNER

CARMIEL, Israel (JTA) — Colorful rainbows, choo-choo trains and flowers decorate the walls of the neighborhood bomb shelter in Carmiel, but amid the overflowing toilets, foul smells and tension of war nobody seemed to notice.

On Saturday and then again on Sunday, more than 100 people crammed into the underground shelter as Katyusha rockets launched by Hezbollah terrorists rained down on Carmiel, a picturesque town nestled in the mountains of northern Israel.

Crying babies and occasionally hysterical mothers added to the drama in a scene repeated throughout the Galilee region — from Nahariya, Acre and Kiryat Shmona in the far north to towns further south, like Rosh Pina, Safed and Tiberias, that had never before seen Katyushas.

Between towns, the highways were virtually deserted as Israelis largely obeyed an order not to go outside unless absolutely necessary.

"For me, I can go to hell, but it's my family I'm worried about," said Niso Levi, a 51-year-old engineer who emigrated from Albania in 1991, along with his wife, Matilda, and daughters Anna and Ilana.

The shelter, known in Hebrew as a miklat, is a staple of every residential complex in Israel. And this one was supposed to protect residents of Carmiel's Givat Ram neighborhood in the event of an attack. But neighbors complain that the shelter's water pipes are broken, that the toilets don't work — and that the shelter was locked by municipal authorities at the very moment it was needed the most.

"This is ridiculous. We're paying as much in taxes as anyone else!" Ilana Fleischman screamed, in full view of TV reporters that had come to cover the latest rocket devastation. "The pipes are broken, the bathroom stinks. Nobody wants to come here."

Not that anyone has a choice.

With the distant booming of Katyusha rockets becoming louder and more frequent, only a few brave souls ventured out — and when one boom sounded particularly close, everyone rushed back into the shelter, some in near-hysteria.

"In 1991, I was alone at home" when Scud missiles fell, "so for me, this is like a trauma," said Fleischman, explaining her nervousness.

"When we woke up this morning with a boom, everybody fell out of bed. Now my son doesn't want to sleep alone."

Standing nearby was Aharon Armejanov, a short, wiry truck driver who was born in Azerbaijan and moved to Israel in 1974. "I am definitely not afraid," he said. "At the same time, I'm not looking to be a hero. I have four children. I'm a veteran of the Lebanon War, so it doesn't make any difference anymore," he said, referring to the 1982 conflict.

With boredom creeping in, political debates in the bomb shelters were inevitable, and Armejanov was quick to offer his opinions on the current crisis.

"We made a big mistake when we withdrew from Lebanon. This gave Hezbollah time to build up their weapons," he told JTA, voicing an opinion shared by many in the Galilee.

"We need peace, but you must pay for

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■ *The shelter, or miklat in Hebrew, is a staple of every residential complex in Israel*

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this peace with blood," Levi said.

"The difference between us and Hezbollah is that we give them a warning first and we don't attack civilians," added Shuster Yafina, a recent immigrant from Moldova.

Yet not all of Carmiel's victims of Hezbollah's aggression think Israel should launch a full-scale invasion of Lebanon.

"We need our soldiers at home. They are our children," said Ludmila Daich, then quickly changing the subject. "I'm very sorry but I don't want to speak about politics. I can't think about that right now, only my grandson. Baruch Hashem, we are alive."

Ludmila and her husband, Peter, were sitting in their modest home just across the street from the neighborhood shelter when a Katyusha ripped through the ceiling — leaving shattered glass all over their bed and shards of broken concrete in their front yard.

"I was thinking of going to the shelter, but it was closed, so I came back here," said Peter, a Ukrainian immigrant who settled in Carmiel 10 years ago. "I was here with my wife and daughter-in-law and her son. They live in Ma'alot, but they came here because she thought it would be safer in Carmiel."

It was much the same story in Tiberias, which was slammed by eight Katyushas over the weekend.

Asher Ya'ish lives on the second floor of an apartment building in the city. One of those missiles hit an apartment on the

fourth floor; fortunately its occupants were vacationing in Tel Aviv.

"I was sitting with my kids on the balcony, looking out at the Kinneret," said Ya'ish, 60. "Half an hour before it happened, my daughter had arrived from Haifa, thinking it would be safer here."

But safety is a relative term, and nobody feels in Tiberias these days.

"I can't believe it. It's like a nightmare," said Ya'ish. "I never thought this could happen."

In fact, the last time a missile landed in this lakeside town of 45,000 was in 1971, and those rockets came from Jordan, not Lebanon.

After the mid-afternoon attack at the residential complex, a crowd quickly gathered at the site of the destruction, with one middle-aged man screaming "Nasrallah, we're not afraid of you! We will destroy you!" before the TV cameras, referring to Hezbollah leader Sheik Hassan Nasrallah.

Yet beaches south of Tiberias, along the shores of the Kinneret,

were still packed with vacationers until they were evacuated by police.

Zohar Oved, the mayor of Tiberias, says he believes his city was targeted by Hezbollah specifically because it's an international tourist destination.

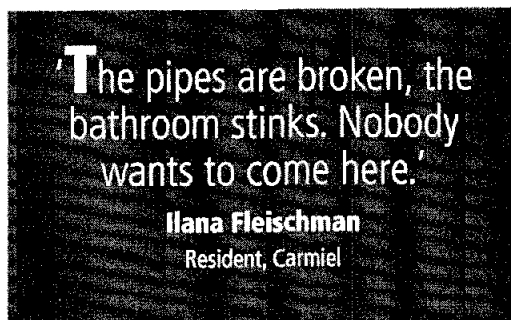
"We are a special community and the people believe our government is acting in the right direction. We cannot manage tourism

with a situation like this," said Oved, noting that one Katyusha fell within a few yards of City Hall.

Asked if more Katyushas will fall on Tiberias, he said, "Unfortunately, yes. We're instructing the people to stay in their homes."

Smadar Perach, whose brother's 2002 Audi was flattened by a Katyusha, said she's getting used to the missiles.

"The very first minute, you panic. But then you understand what's happening. The people of Tiberias are cool," she said. "There is no other way to react."



India's Jews safe after blasts

NEW DELHI (JTA) — Mumbai Jews are safe after a series of bombs claimed nearly 200 lives on the city's train system.

As Mumbai gets back on track, so does the Indian Jewish community's Organization for Educational Resources and Technological Training, or ORT.

Some of the group's 40 staff members in Mumbai had a narrow escape July 11, when seven bomb blasts on Mumbai commuter trains killed 186 people and injured more than 700.

The trains ran on the busy Western Railway suburban corridor, and likely were chosen since they provided the maximum possible number of commuters.

No organization has claimed responsibility for the blasts.

However, initial evidence pointed to the extremist Islamic group Lashkar-e-Taiba, whose members have been arrested in the state with powerful explosives

in the past several months.

Initial police reports indicate that the bombers packed the explosives in bags similar to those carried by office-goers, and kept them in the overhead compartments of first-class cars.

Benjamin Isaac, ORT's director in India, said some of his colleagues had narrow escapes. One staff member had just left his train when a train on the parallel track exploded; another was at the station when a bomb exploded at the opposite end of his train.

A man named Almeida, who is working at ORT as an independent auditor, survived the attack on his train but found himself surrounded by dozens of corpses.

"We have had calls from people all around the world asking after us," he said, mentioning also the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and birthright israel.

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Israel's troubled history with Lebanon

By LESLIE SUSSER

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Instead of the hoped-for oasis of peace tied to the Jewish state by a wealth of common interest, Lebanon has proven in recent decades to be a deadly arena of bloodshed and war. First it was the Palestinians who used the country as a launching pad for terrorist actions against Israel; then it was the Shi'ite Hezbollah. In both cases, outside powers used the militias as proxies against Israel; and, in both cases, cross-border violence eventually led to war.

Fifty years ago, things looked more promising. In the mid-1950s, Israel's first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion, had visions of peace with an independent Christian country in Lebanon. In February 1954, he wrote to Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett, urging him to take diplomatic initiatives toward the establishment of a Christian enclave. Ben-Gurion hoped to create a coalition of like-minded religious minorities in the predominantly Sunni Muslim Middle East. But nothing came of the idea.

For a decade and a half, relations between the two countries were virtually nonexistent. But, immediately after the Six-Day War, because of the weakness of its central government and its proximity to Israel, Lebanon was identified by the Arab world as an ideal base for Palestinian terror. The Cairo Agreement of November 1969 gave the PLO special status in Lebanon, and after their defeat in Jordan in September 1970, Yasser Arafat, the entire Fatah leadership and its fighting force moved into southern Lebanon.

Lebanon became a training ground for terrorists from all over the world. The PLO was able to recruit sympathizers from other terrorist organizations and from the hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees in camps across the country.

During the 1970s, PLO terrorists carried out hundreds of cross-border attacks on Israel.

The influx of Palestinian fighters into Lebanon upset the delicate balance between Muslims and Christians in the country and, in 1975, led to civil war. Lebanese Christians seeking to restore the ethnic balance and free the country from growing PLO control looked to Israel for support. The two sides had a common interest: to drive

the terrorists from their Lebanese base. Two Christian enclaves supported by Israel were set up in the South. That led to the establishment of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army under Maj. Saad Hadad.

In 1976, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin met with Christian leader Camille Chamoun to formalize the arrangement. Israel, Rabin promised, would supply arms and training facilities. Two years later, Rabin's successor, Menachem Begin, upgraded the alliance, promising Israeli air cover if Christian positions were attacked by Syrian warplanes.

Like Israel, the Syrians had used the civil war to gain a foothold in Lebanon. They had intervened in 1976, first on the side of the Christians, then on the side of the PLO.

With close Syrian support, the PLO in 1981 launched a huge artillery barrage on northern Israel. War was narrowly averted through last-minute American mediation.

The cease-fire broke down a year later, when Israel launched an operation designed to drive the PLO and the Syrians from Lebanon and pave the way for a peace treaty with the Lebanese Christian leadership under Bashir Gemayel.

In June 1982, Israeli ground forces quickly overran PLO positions in southern Lebanon; on Aug. 30, Arafat and the rest of the PLO leaders were forced to leave Lebanon after intense Israeli shelling of Beirut.

Gemayel, elected president in July, spoke of peace with Israel, telling Israeli leaders that he would "come to Jerusalem as a second Sadat." Two months later he was assassinated, presumably by the Syrians, who wanted to pre-empt the burgeoning Israeli-Lebanese alliance.

The next day, Christian militiamen moved into the Palestinian refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila and butchered more than 300 unarmed civilians. Israel, which had allowed the militiamen into the camps to seek out Palestinian gunmen, was blamed for the massacre.

Still, Israel and the new Lebanese authorities were able to negotiate a peace deal in the spring of 1983. But a year later, under intense Syrian pressure, Lebanese Presi-

dent Amin Gemayel, Bashir's older brother, renounced the agreement.

After the war, Syria moved troops back into Lebanon, and quickly regained its influence over the Beirut government. In the South a new force emerged: Shi'ite Muslims, influenced by the 1979 Khomeini revolution in Iran formed the Hezbollah militia. Israel remained in occupation of a security zone in the South to protect its northern border. That led to an 18-year-long war of attrition with Hezbollah.

In February 1992, Israel assassinated the Hezbollah chief, Sheik Abbas Musawi, who was succeeded by the present leader, Sheik Hassan Nasrallah.

In May 2000, Israel withdrew from Lebanon to the international border, in a move

ratified by the United Nations. Hezbollah moved militiamen down to the border and, like the PLO before it, created a state-within-a-state in the South. In September 2004, the U.N. Security Council passed Resolution 1559, which

called for the removal of Syrian forces from Lebanon and the dismantlement of all militias, including Hezbollah. The Syrians and Hezbollah ignored it.

But in February 2005, Syria went a step too far, assassinating former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and unleashing a process that eventually forced it to pull its troops out of Lebanon.

In the six years following Israel's withdrawal, Hezbollah, with Syrian and Iranian support, had built up a an estimated force of 12,000 to 14,000 Katyusha rockets capable of hitting a wide range of Israeli cities, towns and villages. Under the Katyusha umbrella, Hezbollah militiamen felt they could carry out cross-border attacks with relative impunity, confident that Israel would refrain from sharp retaliation for fear of triggering a massive bombardment of its civilian population. Moreover, both the Iranians and the Syrians could use the Hezbollah threat to pressure Israel or intimidate their critics in the international community.

By mid-2006, the situation had become strategically unacceptable to Israel. And the stage was set for the showdown that began last week.

BACKGROUND

Like Israel, the Syrians had used the civil war to gain a foothold in Lebanon.

NEWS IN BRIEF

WORLD

Blair, Annan want int'l force in Lebanon

Tony Blair and Kofi Annan called for an international force to end the fighting between Israel and Hezbollah.

Speaking separately, the British prime minister and the U.N. secretary-general called Monday for a force much larger than the 2,000-member U.N. observer force currently in southern Lebanon.

But President Bush, speaking privately but over an open microphone to Blair in Russia, criticized Annan.

"I don't like the sequence of it," Bush said. "His attitude is basically cease-fire and everything else happens." Bush and Blair were attending the G-8 summit of leading industrial nations.

Babi Yar memorial defaced

A memorial in Kiev to World War II-era killings was vandalized. The vandalism occurred over the weekend near Babi Yar, where 33,000 Jews were killed in September 1941.

Altogether during the war, an estimated 100,000 people were killed there. The vandalism occurred a few months before the 65th anniversary of the massacre will be observed.

MIDDLE EAST

Ayalon: Time is not right for a Rice visit

The time is not right for the U.S. secretary of state to come to the Middle East, Israel's ambassador to Washington said.

The State Department announced Monday that Condoleezza Rice plans to visit the region "at some point in the future."

The formal announcement apparently was triggered by an inadvertently recorded conversation between President Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair in which Bush said he would send Rice to the region.

Asked about the plan, Israeli Ambassador Daniel Ayalon told CNN, "Right now I think the time is wrong and I think she thinks the time is wrong."

Rocket salvos spread

Hezbollah gunners extended their reach into new areas of northern Israel.

Renewed rocket salvos from southern Lebanon on Monday night landed in Nazareth, Afula and the Jezreel Valley, the deepest they have reached since Hezbollah began its barrages last week.

There were several casualties reported, but none in serious condition. Fighting between Hezbollah and Israel, which began after Hezbollah killed eight Israeli soldiers and kidnapped two others last week, has killed more than 180 Lebanese and 24 Israelis.

Jerusalem bombing foiled

Israeli security forces foiled a Palestinian suicide bombing in Jerusalem.

A 25-year-old man from the West Bank was arrested near Jerusalem's City Hall on Monday after he aroused the suspicion of passers-by.

A 15-pound bomb was found in the Palestinian's bag, and he told interrogators he had been sent on a terrorist attack.

Israeli soldier killed in West Bank

Palestinian gunmen killed an Israeli soldier and wounded six others in the West Bank. Monday's casualties were caused when an Israeli patrol was ambushed in Nablus' old city. The Al-Aksa Brigade claimed responsibility.

Hebrew U. takes in foreign students

Hebrew University of Jerusalem is taking in foreign students who had been attending the University of Haifa. The Haifa school shut down operations Sunday amid continued Hezbollah rocket attacks.

Some 250 students attending a Haifa ulpan, or intensive Hebrew language program, traveled to Jerusalem on Sunday night.

Lapid to head Yad Vashem

Israel's Holocaust memorial appointed a former Israeli Cabinet minister as chairman. Yosef "Tommy" Lapid, a Holocaust survivor, was named chairman of Yad Vashem on Sunday.

Lapid, the former head of the Shinui Party and former TV pundit, has served as Israeli deputy prime minister and minister of justice.

NORTH AMERICA

Terror case begins in U.S. court

Opening arguments were expected Monday in a case involving art and Iran's support of a terrorist attack in Israel.

Lawyers for victims of the 1997 attack want the U.S. court to force the University of Chicago's Oriental Institute to sell Persian antiquities to help raise some of the money for a \$423.5 million damages judgment made in 2003 against Iran for backing Hamas, which was behind the attack.

The university, Iran and the United States are all opposing the victims; the U.S. government generally says such judgments infringe on the ability of U.S. officials to conduct foreign policy.

Pentagon sells fuel to Israel

The U.S. Defense Department is selling Israel jet fuel "to keep peace and security in the region," the Pentagon said. Last Friday's statement announcing the sale did not say when Israel requested the fuel, valued at up to \$210 million.

"The proposed sale of the JP-8 aviation fuel will enable Israel to maintain the operational capability of its aircraft inventory," the Pentagon said in the notice of such sales that it's required to give Congress, according to a Reuters report.

UJC mission to Israel

The United Jewish Communities is organizing a solidarity mission to Israel. The July 22-27 mission was announced in a memo Monday to federations by the umbrella body for federations.

Participants will tour the North, which has suffered the brunt of rocket attacks launched since last week by Hezbollah, and will meet with top officials including Prime Minister Ehud Olmert; Lt. Gen. Dan Halutz, the military chief of staff; Yona Yahav, mayor of Haifa; and Stanley Fisher, the Bank of Israel governor who will brief them on the economic impact of the escalation in violence.

They also will tour communities near the Gaza Strip, where rocket fire also has increased in recent weeks, and visit a summer camp for child refugees from the North.

North American Jews to stay in Israel

North American Jewish youth groups on summer programs say they will stay in Israel despite escalating violence.

"At this critical point in time for the State of Israel and the Jewish people, we the Jewish youth movements and Israel Experience providers from all across North America, responsible for more than 5,000 Jewish teenagers who are traveling in Israel this summer, want to let the North American Jewish community know that our participants are in very safe hands and are continuing to have the experience of a lifetime," said the letter from Young Judaea, Ramah, BBYO, United Synagogue Youth, Union for Reform Judaism, the Alexander Muss Institute and the Elie and Bessie Cohen Camps.