

IN THE NEWS
**Annan calls for
cease-fire in Middle East**

Kofi Annan called for an immediate cease-fire between Israel and Hezbollah. Speaking Thursday to the U.N. Security Council, the U.N. secretary-general criticized Hezbollah for kidnapping Israeli soldiers and launching rockets into Israel.

He also criticized what he called Israel's collective punishment of the Lebanese people and the Jewish state's "excessive use of force." U.S. Jewish officials criticized Annan's remarks.

"We wonder how the U.N. can be relevant if the most fundamental factor, terrorism, is not even mentioned by the secretary-general," Harold Tanner and Malcolm Hoenlein, chairman and executive vice chairman, respectively, of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said in a statement.

**Israel hits suspected
Hezbollah headquarters**

Israeli warplanes pounded the suspected hideout of Hezbollah's leadership. Tons of bombs were dropped late Wednesday night on a Beirut suburb where Israel believed the Lebanese militia's chiefs, including Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, were located.

Damage was extensive, but Hezbollah issued a statement Thursday saying that none of its leaders had been seriously hurt.

**House passes
pro-Israel resolution**

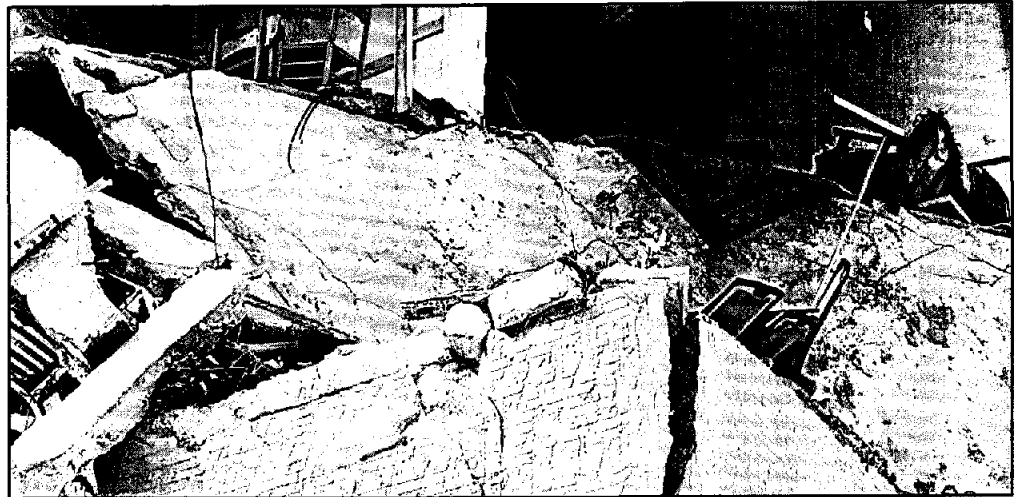
The U.S. House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed a resolution supporting Israel in its conflicts in Lebanon and the Gaza Strip.

The resolution, which passed Thursday by a vote of 410-8, came after the Senate passed a similar resolution Tuesday.

The resolution "supports Israel's right to take appropriate action to defend itself, including to conduct operations both in Israel and in the territory of nations which pose a threat to it."

WORLD REPORT

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Brian Hendler

Chairs hang from the edge of a destroyed building in the Bat Galim neighborhood of Haifa.

Congress voices support for Israel after a week of partisan bickering

By RON KAMPEAS

WASHINGTON (JTA) — A week after Israel took on Hezbollah in response to a cross-border attack, the U.S. Congress overwhelmingly passed a resolution expressing support for the Jewish state.

Efforts by both houses of Congress to rush through earlier resolutions were dogged by political turf wars and agonizing over how best to express concerns about the safety of Lebanese civilians.

The arguments were reflected in the only significant difference between the final Senate version, passed unanimously on Tuesday, and the final U.S. House of Representatives version, which passed Thursday in a 410-8 vote.

The difference boiled down to 10 words in the "resolved" section of the final Senate version, which "urges all sides to protect innocent

civilian life and infrastructure." No similar language appears in the House version, which instead recognized "Israel's longstanding commitment to minimizing civilian loss."

Close to 300 Lebanese, the vast majority of them civilians, have died in the fighting since July 12. Of 29 Israeli deaths, 15 have been civilians.

Ultimately, both resolutions were overwhelmingly positive for Israel. Each supported Israel's right to defend itself and pursue state sponsors of terrorism.

"Congress recognizes that Israel has been forced to respond to unprovoked attacks and, like the United States and all sovereign nations, has the right and duty to defend its citizens," the American Israel Public Affairs Committee said in a statement.

Beneath the comity, however, were frustration and accusations of bad faith. Democrats

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HEADLINES**

■ Political turf wars dogged efforts in both houses to rush through earlier resolutions

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and Republicans exchanged barbs about “playing politics” — and each said the other side was behind the delay.

Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), the minority leader in the House, removed her name from the resolution as a co-sponsor because it did not address the protection of civilians.

Consensus resolutions usually feature the name of both leaders; as it now stands, the House resolution is topped by the names of Rep. John Boehner (R-Ohio), the majority leader; Rep. Henry Hyde (R-Ill.), the chairman of the International Relations Committee, and the committee’s ranking Democrat, Rep. Tom Lantos (D-Calif.)

Republicans were happy to point out Pelosi’s no-show.

“It speaks volumes that she’s unwilling to lend her name as a co-sponsor,” said Matt Brooks, the executive director of the Republican Jewish Coalition. “It highlights a real wave within the Democratic Party that wants a more ‘evenhanded’ approach on these issues, and that wants to view Israel through the same prism we do Hezbollah. Watering down is not acceptable right now.”

■

Democrats said it is nonsense to suggest they were ready to equate Hezbollah and Israel.

“Any effort to protect civilians from casualties and loss of life is something we want to see,” Sen. Robert Menendez (D-N.J.) said in a conference call with Jewish reporters. But Democrats understand that “Hezbollah doesn’t care about civilian casualties, Israel

does. Israel is doing everything it can.”

Concern for civilian casualties also dogged passage of the Senate resolution — but in this case, at least in part, because a leading Republican expressed reservations.

Sen. John Warner (R-Va.), the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, said in a speech on the Senate floor on Monday night that he was concerned there was no mention made in the resolution of the 25,000 Americans stranded in Lebanon.

Additionally, he said, there should be a more emphatic call on Israel to show restraint.

“While I fully recognize that Israel was a victim of provocative attacks on her people and sovereignty, I urge the administration to think through very carefully how Israel’s extraordinary reaction could affect our operations in Iraq and our joint diplomatic efforts to resolve the Iranian nuclear issue,” Warner said.

Republican sources say they persuaded Warner to come around by Monday evening and the vote was held Tuesday.

Warner’s statement showed that there was bipartisan concern for Lebanese civilians, Democrats said.

Pelosi’s no-show ‘highlights a real wave within the Democratic Party that wants a more “evenhanded” approach on these issues, and that wants to view Israel through the same prism we do Hezbollah. Watering down is not acceptable right now.’

Matt Brooks
Executive director, Republican Jewish Coalition

Pelosi’s aides said she had twice signed off on versions that included such concerns, only to find that Boehner’s staff had removed the language. Ultimately, Pelosi’s staff said, she was not going to add her name to a resolution that did not contain a word she wrote.

“Rep. Pelosi wanted to incorporate her thinking if she was going to sign off on it,” said Jennifer Criden, Pelosi’s spokeswoman.

Boehner’s office could not be reached for comment.

Democrats also said Pelosi hoped to have the resolution on the floor by July 13, a day after Hezbollah launched its rocket attacks on Israel and killed eight soldiers and captured another two in a cross-border raid. Pelosi was willing to override the pro-

ocol, which would run the bill through the relevant committee.

Hyde, who heads the relevant committee, persuaded Boehner to restore the protocol, Democrats said, which delayed the vote. Sources in the pro-Israel community confirmed that sequence of events.

Ira Forman, the executive director of the National Jewish Democratic Council, said Republicans were too busy addressing “wedge” issues ahead of November elec-

tions in which they stand to lose one or both houses. He cited votes on a constitutional amendment that would ban gay marriage, and one that would add protections to the mention of God in the Pledge of Allegiance.

“Neither the Pledge of Allegiance nor marriage are currently threatened,” he wrote on his

blog. “Yet each ‘issue’ was a priority for the House, which at this time has still not passed a resolution expressing solidarity with Israel.”

In a phone interview, he lashed out at Republicans for targeting Pelosi. “This is a time for bipartisanship on Israel, but I guess the Republicans are so desperate with their situation in the Jewish community that they’ll make even the most laughable of attacks.”

■

Pelosi expressed strong support for the resolution in a floor speech Wednesday, but also made sure her concern about the welfare of Lebanese civilians were made known.

“This resolution reaffirms our unwavering support and commitment to Israel and condemns the attacks by Hezbollah,” she said. “As the fighting rages, it is imperative that the combatants take whatever steps they can to lessen risk to innocent civilians. The world knows too well the horrors of war. But there are ways to offer some degree of protection to civilians, and it is right to insist that those ways be chosen.” ■

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Democracy, Jewish issues still linked in Russia?

By LEV KRICHEVSKY

MOSCOW (JTA) — Vladimir Putin insists that democracy and human rights are internal Russian issues.

"We proceed from the fact that no one knows better than we do how to strengthen our state," the president of Russia, which hosted the recent G-8 summit, said Saturday at a news conference following talks with President Bush. "We know for sure that we cannot strengthen our state without developing democratic institutions, and this is the path that we will certainly take. But we're certainly going to do this on our own."

Worries have grown during the past year over what many see as Putin's increasingly authoritarian rule, limiting dissent and cementing his own power.

In the Soviet era and even after, this would have been considered a Jewish issue, since issues involving democracy and human rights were seen as inextricably linked to Jewish concerns.

But is it still the case in a Russia where Jews have freedom of worship and the freedom to emigrate? Do Russian Jews think attention to Russia's democratic record is productive for the community, or is it a counterproductive development that could further alienate Russia from the West?

Some observers believe Russian Jews should remain sensitive to human-rights issues simply because they are a minority that could become a target.

"As in any country, minorities, including Jews, have a worse chance for survival under authoritarian regimes," said Yevgenia Albats, a leading Moscow political journalist. "Just because the situation looks fine for Jews now does not mean the regime will always keep it the same. Under authoritarian rule, everything, both good and bad, lies with the autocratic leader."

She added, "Such a leader often needs an internal enemy, and Jews are among the best candidates to this position."

A leading U.S. advocate for Jews in the region agrees.

"History and current events show that Jews live better under democratic rule," said Mark Levin, executive director of NCSJ: Advocates on Behalf of Jews in Russia, Ukraine, the Baltic States and Eurasia. "In Russia, the Jewish community has

not been targeted by the government, it has been able to develop its cultural, educational and religious institutions, but who's to say how long this can last if the overall society doesn't progress."

Among the issues of concern to Western leaders is Russia's treatment of non-governmental organizations. Early this year, Putin signed into law a highly controversial bill that bans foreign participation in the nonprofit sector, further isolating Russian society from international democratic trends and institutions.

"It is certain that the authorities are trying to limit the influence from abroad played by various non-governmental organizations,

although fears that this might somehow affect Jewish organizations have not materialized yet," said Mikhail Chlenov, secretary-general of the Euro-Asian Jewish Congress.

Another longtime Jewish activist said a discussion over the state of democracy in Russia could help bring long-standing problems to the surface.

Tankred Golenpolsky, founder and publisher of the International Jewish Gazette, Russia's oldest Jewish weekly, gives an example of the problem.

"There are three Jewish weeklies in Moscow, and each saw how their subscribers got concerned when they tried to mail the papers without blank envelopes," he said. "After all these years, there is deep-seated fear in Jews here. That means there is a problem that we need to talk about. You can only fight fear by talking about it."

Golenpolsky believes Russia should not be shy about openly discussing issues of democracy and minority rights, both within Russian society and with Moscow's foreign partners in meetings like the G-8 summit.

"This is our Russian complex: We think that if others don't know that we have problems at home, then we don't have problems," he said.

But some leaders contend that any

such connection may not be productive now that the Jewish community lives in a much freer country and doesn't face an immediate threat to its well-being.

The Federation of Jewish Communities, Russia's largest Jewish group and the one with the best relations to the Kremlin, said responsible Jewish groups and leaders should think twice before adding their voices to the chorus of those criticizing the Kremlin.

"Jewish organizations should have as their main focus the interests of the Jews that live in this country," federation spokesman Boruch Gorin said.

Gorin and the federation believes it's in the community's interest to deal with issues of human rights in a more cautious manner and to avoid irritating authorities.

"It would be irresponsible" for Jewish organizations "to engage in a discussion on human rights without taking into account the peculiarities of Russian mentality and Russian history," Gorin said.

Gorin said that the traditional approach, of local Jews appealing to the West on major issues of concern to the Jewish community, is "not smart and ineffective."

Golenpolsky disagreed.

"We are a mature country with a great history, but we shouldn't be playing hide-and-seek" with "our problems and with our partners," he said.

In the meantime, few Jewish activists would disagree that the state could do more to fight the anti-Semitism that continues to plague Russian society, even in the absence of a state-sponsored policy against the Jews.

But some Jewish leaders say the issue will not be solved by lecturing Russia on its internal problems.

"Lecturing Russia is not necessary and not enough," Chlenov said. "Much more here depends not on the West but on Russia's own society. Either there is the will of society to fight with these evils, or there isn't. Foreign lessons would hardly help." ■

(JTA Foreign Editor Peter Ephross in New York contributed to this report.)

ACROSS
THE FORMER
SOVIET
UNION

Some observers believe Russian Jews should remain sensitive to human-rights issues simply because they are a minority that could become a target.

North American olim undeterred

By DINA KRAFT

NEW YORK/TEL AVIV (JTA) — Susan Rubin held her 22-year-old son close, tears spilling down her cheeks while news photographers zoomed in on what an American Jewish mother looks like as she watches her son immigrate to Israel in the midst of war.

"Just let me cry," she told her son, Stephen, who graduated college a month ago. But Rubin said her sadness comes not only from the ongoing fighting and her son's intentions to join an Israeli army combat unit, but simply from how much she'll miss him.

"People ask me, 'How can you let him go?' I say, 'How can I not let him go?'" said Rubin, an editor and researcher from Bala Cynwyd, a Philadelphia suburb. "We raise our children to go forth, but it doesn't mean our hearts aren't breaking."

Rubin's son was one of 239 North American immigrants who left New York on Wednesday and arrived in Israel the following day on a flight chartered by Nefesh B'Nefesh, an organization devoted to facilitating North American aliyah. The group helps ease the aliyah process by streamlining the immigration process and providing financial grants and social services.

Organizers expect to welcome the 10,000th immigrant from Nefesh B'Nefesh later this summer. The group's efforts are funded predominately by a handful of philanthropic families, and it also receives funding and support from the Israeli government and the Jewish Agency for Israel.

Against a backdrop of war and uncertainty, farewells were especially emotional as families and friends bid their loved ones goodbye at New York's JFK Airport. Sisters parted from brothers, parents from children and grandchildren. Long goodbyes were punctuated with hugs, grasped hands and tears.

"I'll miss them, but I'm proud of them," said writer Joe Rapaport, 64, as his son and daughter-in-law and their five children checked in suitcases and strollers piled high on carts.

Inbar Rapaport, 33, pregnant with her sixth child, stood at the check-in counter and said the fighting between Israel and Hezbollah had not deterred the family from making aliyah, as she and her hus-

band had intended for years.

"I'm happy that they're trying to get Hezbollah out of southern Lebanon," the Harvard-educated lawyer said. "I'd be happier if Israel was at peace, but it's not."

Her immediate concerns are practical in nature: She worries that the shipment from the home the family just sold in Teaneck, N.J. will be delayed because the Haifa port has been closed due to missile attacks on the city.

Shachar, 9, the eldest of the Rapaport children, has been following the daily headlines.

"I was a little scared that we're moving. I thought that coming in we might have to fly in the north of the country and that a rocket might hurt the plane," he said.

But he added quickly, "I think the plane has anti-rocket" equipment.

Nefesh B'Nefesh established a hotline after hostilities flared across Israel's border with Lebanon last week. About 20 families who were planning to live in the North canceled their places on the flight, choosing to go a few weeks later, when they hope the crisis will have passed.

Rabbi Yehoshua Fass, Nefesh B'Nefesh's co-founder and executive director, fielded dozens of calls and e-mails over the past week from anxious immigrants-to-be and their relatives. He commended those planning to live in the North who had delayed their immigration.

"It's too traumatic to take children from stable homes to a shelter," he told JTA as the plane approached Israel's coast.

Many of those who make aliyah with Nefesh B'Nefesh are part of large Orthodox families.

Fass, who immigrated on the first flight the group organized five years ago, said the immigrants' determination to leave comfortable homes and lives in North America, especially with Israeli cities under rocket fire, sends a powerful message.

"It's the ultimate act of solidarity," he said. "In their minds it's not a conflict, it's like the 'for better or worse,' it's like marriage. They understand they're getting married to Israel."

Former Prime Minister Benjamin Ne-

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David Karp

Michael Landsberg, Executive Director of the Jewish Agency Aliyah Dept. in North America, right, greets Mimi and Avi Omesi and their kids, Emily and Samuel of Doylestown, PA who are on their way to live in Israel.

tanyahu greeted the immigrants in a festive ceremony at the airport.

"What's the best answer to Hezbollah?" asked Netanyahu, who currently heads Israel's political opposition as head of the Likud Party. "You are the best answer.

"It's a testament to the Jewish spirit," he told JTA.

The immigrants were greeted like rock stars as they descended from buses to the welcoming ceremony. Guests, including friends and relatives, waved small

Israeli flags and greeted them with cheers and applause.

Sara Goldstein, 41, from Merrick, N.Y., walked on the tarmac with her husband and four children. Her daughter Tali, 10, clutched the handle of a box containing the family pet, a Persian cat born around Purim and named Ahasuerus.

The fighting was no reason to delay her family's plans, she said.

"We've been planning this for a while," Tali said, checking that the family's belongings were all in tow. "We're very comfortable here." ■

'I'd be happier if Israel was
at peace, but it's not.'

Inbar Rapaport
New immigrant

Israeli Arabs fear missiles

By LARRY LUXNER

MAJDAL KRUM, Israel — Across the Galilee, hundreds of thousands of Israeli Jews remain in bomb shelters, awaiting the next rocket barrage from Lebanon.

For Israel's Arabs, however, going to underground bunkers is out of the question — because their towns often don't have any.

Since the Hezbollah assault began last week, dozens of Katyusha rockets have landed in Arab villages including Majdal Krum, Fassuta, Sasa, Hurfeish and Gush Halav.

On Wednesday, Rabia Abed Taluzi, 3, and his brother Mahmoud, 9, were killed by Katyushas. The rockets hit the street where the boys were playing, near their home in Nazareth.

In addition, Arabs have been hurt in the mixed Arab-Jewish city of Haifa, which has seen some of the worst damage so far.

Some Israeli Arabs, who complain of discrimination by the Jewish majority, say their fears and needs are being neglected.

"Most of our villages are without shelters, and the houses are old and exposed to danger," complains human rights activist Abir Kopty of Nazareth. "It's very clear that the Israeli media aren't dealing with what's happening in Arab areas. When they show on TV the maps of where Katyushas are falling, they don't mention our villages. It's like we don't even exist."

In the Galilee town of Majdal Krum, population 13,000, residents were startled when six Katyushas hit their town last

week, injuring 20 people and disrupting several weddings.

Unlike nearby Carmiel — a prosperous and orderly Jewish city — Majdal Krum is a jumble of dirt roads, crumbling houses and exposed power lines.

"We are not equals, and now we look like enemies in the eyes of the Defense Ministry. But according to the Katyushas, we are equal," said Mohammed Canaan, who served as the town's mayor from 1993 to 2003. Hezbollah leader Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, he said, "doesn't know exactly where the Katyushas will land."

Shortly after the Katyusha attack, Education Minister Yuli

Tamir paid a quick visit to Majdal Krum. But Canaan, 54, dismissed the visit as inconsequential.

"This is nothing new. Same problems, same talk," he told JTA. "The education minister came here for five minutes, visited three homes that were hit, and said everything will be OK."

Nadia Hilo, one of two Arab lawmakers representing the Labor Party in the Knesset, isn't satisfied. She demands that party members visit Arab villages to see the situation for themselves.

"For the first time, Arab citizens of Israel are being hurt by this war, and for me it's very important to be with the people, to

listen to them and to think about solutions," she told JTA in Majdal Krum. "There are no places they can be safe."

Israel has more than 1 million Arab citizens, many in the Galilee. Hilo insisted that "for years, the mayors of Arab villages have asked the government to build shelters. I know that some private houses in Arab towns have been built with shelters, but this is also a question of responsibility of the Israeli government as well as local authorities."

An army spokesman responded that the Homefront Command "has never neglected the Arab population."

"The measures taken to protect the Arab population are totally equal in terms of statements and warnings, and we work in accordance with local authorities," the spokesman said.

The crisis began when Hezbollah, which sits in the Lebanese government, staged a cross-border raid July 12 that resulted in the killing of eight Israeli soldiers and the kidnapping of two more. Since then,

the two sides have traded devastating missile strikes.

Israeli Arab politicians have appeared at events together with Hezbollah leaders, and their incendiary statements in sympathy with Israel's enemies frequently infuriate the country's Jewish majority. Even now, with many Lebanese blaming Hezbollah for bringing disaster on their heads, Hilo, like most other Israeli Arabs interviewed, declined to criticize the group.

Kopty said it's no surprise that Israeli Arabs are far less supportive of the Israeli government's policies in Lebanon than are Israeli Jews.

"On one hand, we are worried and afraid, as all other Israeli citizens living in the North. On the other hand, the Arab minority has a very clear position against war and occupation, and against the Israeli army's use of force," she told JTA.

"We think that this war is avoidable. There is no justification," she continued. "The Israeli government could have solved this issue from the first day through negotiations with Hezbollah and the Lebanese government." ■

FOCUS ON ISSUES

Even now, with many Lebanese blaming Hezbollah for bringing disaster on their heads, most Israeli Arabs interviewed declined to criticize the group.



Larry Luxner

Israel's minister of education, Yuli Tamir, visits Majdal Krum.

France marks Dreyfus Affair

By BRETT KLINE

PARIS (JTA) — A century after Capt. Alfred Dreyfus succeeded in clearing his name of treason charges that became a national scandal and helped launch the Zionist movement, France is lauding the outcome as a “victory for the republic” — but warning that the scourge of anti-Semitism remains.

President Jacques Chirac led a ceremony July 12 at the Ecole Militaire, the site where Dreyfus was stripped of his military honors in 1895 after being wrongfully convicted of treason.

“From a Jewish family deeply faithful to the French republic and a graduate of the elite Polytechnic grande ecole,” Chirac said, Dreyfus “had begun an exemplary career. And suddenly, the man was caught in the snowball effect of a judicial error.

“This rehabilitation is a victory for the republic of France,” Chirac continued. “But the battle against hatred and anti-Semitism has not been won.”

The Dreyfus affair divided France and set off a wave of unprecedented anti-Semitism in Paris. The depth of the hatred against Jews helped convince Theodor Herzl, a young Austrian journalist covering the Dreyfus case, that Jews would never achieve full equality in Europe, and motivated him to launch the Zionist movement.

Hailing from the Alsace region — which France had fought over with Germany, and where Jews had lived for centuries — Dreyfus spoke both French and German. When evidence was found indicating that someone had been passing secrets to the Germans, Dreyfus, the only Jew in the army’s high command, was accused.

Dreyfus was found guilty of high treason on Jan. 5, 1895, and was stripped of his rank and uniform in front of 20,000 people.

“Vive la France, vive l’armee!” — “Long live France, long live the army!” — he cried out.

He was sent to Devil’s Island, next to French Guiana in South America.

In 1896, the army and government found the officers who had spied for the Germans, but officials feared it would sully the army’s honor to admit their error. Cmdr. Ferdinand Esterhazy, who had passed the

information to Germany, was acquitted.

Politicians, intellectuals and left-wing writers took up Dreyfus’ cause. Supporters included writer Emile Zola, who published his famous open letter, “J’accuse!” on Jan. 13, 1898.

On the other side were right-wingers, monarchists and the army establishment, who called Dreyfus a traitor. Thousands of people demonstrated in the streets of Paris, chanting, “Death to the Jews.”

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Dreyfus returned from Devil’s Island in 1899, underwent another military trial, was again found guilty and was pardoned by President Felix Faure. He spent the next seven years of his life clearing his name.

France’s Supreme Court finally reinstated Dreyfus to the army in July 1906; he was promoted to major and given the Legion of Honor. His health broken from five years in a tropical prison, however, he retired from the army the following year.

On the centennial of Dreyfus’ rehabilitation, Paris and other French cities are hosting symposia and official ceremonies, museum exhibits and book publications dealing with “l’Affaire” and what it meant to France and to French Jews then and now.

At the event in Paris, not everyone agreed with Chirac’s description of the affair as a “judicial error.”

“This was not a judicial error. This was an anti-Semitic plot,” said Charles Dreyfus, the captain’s grandson.

“We are a bit disappointed by the president’s speech,” said Michel Dreyfus, the captain’s great-grandson. “I thought Chirac would announce some kind of solid measure to correct the injustice.”

Some were more pleased.

“I think this ceremony does represent a type of justice,” said Nicole Guedj, a Jewish former Cabinet minister and counsel to the president on humanitarian affairs. “In French, the word ‘rehabilitation’ means correcting an injustice. This implicitly means recognizing the innocence of the person involved.”

In the French newspaper Liberation,

attorney Germain Latour wrote that the 1906 decision overturning Dreyfus’ second conviction confirmed that the affair had been based on false evidence presented by the chiefs of staff of the army, which then covered it up.

“The Dreyfus Affair was not a judicial error,” he wrote. “It was a judicial crime.

“Certain men who hated the captain no longer had a guilty victim. And their hatred was based on anti-Semitism,” he wrote.

“This business of rehabilitation can be taken further,” said Chaim Musicant, director general of CRIF, the umbrella group of Jewish organizations in France. “But it is a very good thing that France has not forgotten this affair.

Michel Drouin, head of an international society on the history of the Dreyfus Affair, said that part of the crime was that no one in the army suffered any consequences:

Everyone involved received amnesty.

“You simply could not touch the army then,” he said. “The total amnesty was decreed because the affair had become a pain, a useless trial. The amnestying of all

the army people directly involved in the plot and the spying is a shameful page in French history.”

The affair is being marked by various cultural institutions. The links between the Dreyfus affair and modern Zionism are explained in an exhibit at the Museum of Jewish Art and History in Paris.

Additionally, the first stone has been laid for a Dreyfus Museum in Medan, outside Paris, in an initiative under the patronage of Elie Weisel.

Finally, after much deliberation, it was decided that Dreyfus’ remains will not be transferred from the Montparnasse Cemetery to the Pantheon, home to France’s national heroes. Dreyfus’ family appears happy with the decision, saying he belongs with his wife and family.

“Dreyfus was a victim of French history,” Drouin explained. “He was a modest man. He would have preferred to stay with his family. The hero of this affair is Emile Zola, and he is already in the Pantheon.”

Not everyone agreed with Chirac’s description of the Dreyfus Affair as a ‘judicial error.’

ART & CULTURE

French Jews
look for love

By BRETT KLINE

PARIS (JTA) — Two women in tight-fitting T-shirts and short skirts looked at the hair salon giving away free teases and blow-dry waves, and turned up their noses.

"Frankly, the guys here are all ugly," one said, lighting up a cigarette in a no-smoking zone. "Maybe I should go live in the States. I speak good English."

Welcome to a recent Jewish singles event in Paris, which attracted 1,200 religious and secular women and men from 28 to 50 years old. Attendance was down from about 2,500 at the first such event held last year, perhaps because of the nice weather or perhaps because of the celebration following the French soccer team's victory in a World Cup match the previous day.

Many of those present expressed cynicism and ambivalence about looking for a relationship.

"I'm not here to meet someone," Albert, 42, said as he toured the various booths. "But I want to found a family with a Jewish woman."

"You can't be complicated," added Albert, a middle-school computer technology teacher. He then launched into a complicated explanation of why he wanted to find a younger woman, saying it was "risky" to have children with a woman over age 40.

Event organizer Meyer Rabba said he was happy to see men and women trying to find partners.

"It brings tears to my eyes to see some of these people," said Rabba, who heads a company called SIRJ. "The men try to hide their pain more than the women, but everybody is looking for someone. And age doesn't matter. When you go home to an empty house, you are alone."

The booths included matrimonial agencies, image advisers, wardrobe advisers, travel agencies, a couple of youth groups and even the Jewish Agency for Israel.

"A number of people are sitting down, but frankly there are some I am not asking to fill out a form," said the woman staffing the Jewish Agency desk. "One guy said he was looking to make aliyah in 10 years. It doesn't surprise me that he has never found a wife." ■

Argentina marks bombing anniversary

By FLORENCIA ARBISER

BUENOS AIRES (JTA) — As Argentine Jews mark the 12th anniversary of the AMIA terrorist attack, the routines seem somehow rehearsed.

Victims' relatives, Argentine Jewish and worldwide leaders, a few politicians, Jewish school students and citizens gathered under a humid, overcast sky Tuesday in front of the central AMIA Jewish institution building in Buenos Aires. There seemed to be reproduced routines, as at prior anniversaries: people greeting acquaintances

with special fondness, traffic deviation, police officers with their trained dogs and security services employees, tearful eyes and some lost shouts calling for justice — justice that is still missing a dozen years later.

The main speeches were made by AMIA president Luis Grynwald, constitutional lawyer Daniel Sabsay and Luis Czyzewski, whose daughter, Paola, was 21 years old when she killed in the AMIA bombing. In all, 85 people died and some 300 were wounded in the attack, which has never been solved.

"After three years in government, it's not enough to say that the case is a national shame and that it's a state cause," Czyzewski said. "A commitment that vanishes in state bureaucracy is not enough."

Members of the Jewish community were disappointed by the official turnout Tuesday, especially after the government made July 18 a national day of mourning.

President Nestor Kirchner, who has attended the past two years, was on a state visit to Paraguay. Czyzewski, of a victims' relatives group called Familiares de las Victima, criticized Kirchner's absence.

His wife, the popular Senator Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, and Vice President Daniel Scioli were in Buenos Aires, but did not attend the ceremony. Jewish community members said the two may have been worried about being repudiated in public,

as the case has stagnated over the past year.

Rabbi Israel Singer, a World Jewish Congress official, told JTA at a press conference Monday evening that Kirchner's attitude ultimately will be more important than his presence at such an event.

"I think this government is committing itself," said Singer, a frequent visitor to Argentina. "The behavior will count. Not the words."

The World Jewish Congress held its annual meeting in Buenos Aires on Sunday and Monday to support the bombing anniversary and the demand for justice.

"Whenever we've come here, we've pressed strongly," Singer said.

To Singer, "the rest of the country — the non-Jewish population — didn't feel enough indignation over the AMIA attack. And a society becomes insecure when people do not protect it."

In his speech, Grynwald called on the government to break diplomatic relations with Iran and condemn nations that sponsor terrorism.

"There is enough proof that shows Iran as the intellectual author of the AMIA attack and former Iranian officials and Hezbollah members as the attack executives," he said.

On Monday, Memoria Activa — another victims' relatives group, which is highly critical of the investigation — gathered in "Memory Park," in front of the main court building, for its own commemoration.

Diana Malamud, one of the leaders of the group, spoke about her sadness. Her husband, an architect who was remodeling AMIA, was killed in the bombing.

"I have sadness when I try to imagine the life that was not possible... I have sadness when I look to the photo... I have sadness when I realize I don't recall the sound of his voice," she said.

"It is now 12 years since we have the certainty that this massacre was hidden," she said, repeating assertions that former President Carlos Menem and Argentine intelligence services hindered the investigation. ■

AROUND
THE JEWISH
WORLD

Members of the Jewish community were disappointed by the official turnout Tuesday, especially after the government made July 18 a national day of mourning.

NEWS IN BRIEF

MIDDLE EAST

Israel kills Palestinian in Gaza

Israeli forces killed at least one Palestinian in the Gaza Strip. The death occurred Thursday in a refugee camp that Israel says serves as a base for rocket attacks into southern Israel. Nine Palestinians were killed in the camp Wednesday.

Mofaz: Hezbollah at half-strength

Hezbollah's fighting strength has been halved, an Israeli official said. Transportation Minister Shaul Mofaz, a member of Israel's Security Cabinet, told reporters Thursday that the Lebanese militia's combat capabilities had decreased by 50 percent after more than a week of fighting Israeli forces.

He said Israel should press its offensive in Lebanon until Hezbollah is vanquished. In a separate briefing, Tourism Minister Isaac Herzog said Hezbollah had fired at least 1,600 rockets into northern Israel since the conflict erupted July 12.

Closure on West Bank, Gaza

Israel sealed off the West Bank and Gaza Strip in light of terror alerts. Defense Minister Amir Peretz ordered the closure Wednesday night, following two foiled Palestinian suicide bombings and intelligence warnings of many more planned.

The closure is expected to be in force until at least Saturday night.

Lebanese leader denies comments

Lebanon's prime minister denied that he called for Hezbollah to be disarmed.

Fouad Siniora said he was mistranslated when an Italian newspaper quoted him extensively in a story published Thursday.

Corriere della Sera stood by the report, which it said was based on recorded material. In the remarks, Siniora criticized Hezbollah for creating a "state within a state" in Lebanon and said "the entire world must help us disarm Hezbollah."

He added in the interview that "It's not a mystery that Hezbollah answers to the political agendas of Tehran and Damascus."

Israelis leave journalists' group

A group of Israeli journalists renounced their membership in an international press organization.

The move came after the secretary-general of the International Federation of Journalists refused to retract criticism of Israel's bombing of Al-Manar, Hezbollah's TV station, Ha'aretz reported.

The general-secretary, Aidan White, proposed a trip to Israel to discuss the matter, but Israeli journalists refused, saying that Al-Manar is a propaganda outlet, not a journalistic one.

WORLD

E.U. to aid P.A.

The European Union pledged to provide the Palestinian Authority with about \$130 million over three months. Javier Solana, the E.U.'s foreign policy chief, announced Wednesday that international donor funds would begin flowing to cash-starved Palestinian hospitals as early as Aug. 1, but most details of the package have yet to be worked out.

The cash is intended to ease the Palestinian Authority's dire financial crisis without dealing directly with the P.A.'s Hamas leadership.

The West generally has avoided funding the Palestinian Authority since the terrorist group took over the reins earlier this year. Solana was visiting Gaza as part of a Middle East tour to find a way out of the current crisis.

NORTH AMERICA

U.S. officials oppose cease-fire

Bush administration officials told U.S. Jewish leaders that they oppose an immediate cease-fire on the Israel-Lebanon border. About 50 leaders of the United Jewish Communities, the umbrella body of Jewish federations, and the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, its equivalent for community relations councils, joined the solidarity mission to Washington on Thursday.

They met with Nicholas Burns, an undersecretary of state; Elliott Abrams, the deputy national security adviser to the White House; and leaders of both parties in Congress. UJC Treasurer Kathy Manning said the message was consistent. "It is not the time to push for a cease-fire," she told JTA. "To leave Israel vulnerable to Hezbollah would be completely inappropriate." Israel has vowed to continue its strikes in southern Lebanon until it pushes Hezbollah, the terrorist group that launched the fighting nine days ago, back from the border.

Peace movement urges cease-fire

A dovish Jewish group urged the U.S. government to call for a Mideast cease-fire and the release of three kidnapped Israeli soldiers. Brit Tzedek v'Shalom is encouraging members to send letters to lawmakers asking them to pursue substantive diplomatic efforts.

"The history of the region demonstrates that military solutions will not resolve the underlying conflicts," the organization's sample letter reads.

"It is time for the U.S. and the international community to stand up, so the increasing numbers of parties to this conflict can stand down and can get back to the serious business of saving lives by negotiating a comprehensive, tenable resolution to this conflict."

In Detroit, demonstrators rally for Israel

Some 4,000 people rallied outside Detroit for Israel. Demonstrators at Wednesday night's rally in Southfield, Mich., defended Israel's actions against Hezbollah in Lebanon.

The rally took place a day after an estimated 10,000 Muslim and Arab Americans protested in a nearby city against Israel's military actions.

House praises Magen David Adom acceptance

The U.S. House of Representatives passed a resolution congratulating Israel's emergency medical response service for gaining entry to the International Red Cross.

The concurrent resolution, which passed Thursday, was introduced June 22, the day of Magen David Adom's admittance.

Magen David Adom, Israel's Red Cross society, won entry into the International Red Cross after Arab and Muslim states had pressured the international body into keeping Israel out for nearly 60 years.

Arab-American leaders go to D.C.

More than 100 Arab-American leaders will discuss the Middle East crisis with congressional leaders and State Department officials.

Arab leaders from more than 20 districts will meet Friday with their representatives and congressional staff. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.), Rep. Darrell Issa (R-Calif.), Rep. Ray LaHood (R-Ill.) and Charles Boustany (R-La.) will host a town hall forum Friday with Arab-American community leaders and other congressional leaders.

During the afternoon, the delegation will meet with officials from the State Department to address the evacuation of Arab Americans from Lebanon and problems some Arab Americans say they encounter entering the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Arab Americans and Muslim Americans also participated Tuesday in a protest outside the White House.