

**IN THE NEWS**
**3 Israeli soldiers killed in Lebanon**

Three Israeli soldiers died in clashes with Hezbollah gunmen.

Tuesday's deaths occurred during fighting in the southern Lebanese town of Ayta a-Shab.

**Iran rejects nuclear halt**

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad rejected a U.N. Security Council resolution calling on Iran to halt its uranium enrichment program.

Iran's president said in a speech Tuesday that the country's nuclear program is peaceful, though most international observers believe it's designed to build a nuclear weapon.

Ahmadinejad also called for the United States and Britain to be thrown off the Security Council.

**E.U. tones down statement on conflict**

The European Union failed to call for an immediate cease-fire in the Israel-Hezbollah conflict. At the insistence of Britain and Germany, the body instead called Tuesday for an "immediate end to hostilities, to be followed by a sustainable cease-fire."

Also Tuesday, the European Union's president said the group would not add Hezbollah to its list of terrorist groups.

**Jews welcome Gibson apology**

U.S. Jewish groups responded warmly to Mel Gibson's second apology for anti-Semitic comments. The Anti-Defamation League, which called Gibson's first apology "unremorseful and insufficient," said Gibson's most recent apology "sounds sincere."

Gibson went on an anti-Semitic tirade when he was arrested for drunk driving over the weekend. The American Jewish Committee also welcomed Gibson's statement, but pointed out that "complete repentance is measured by actions, not just words, over time."

# WORLD REPORT

PUBLISHED WEEKDAYS BY JTA—THE GLOBAL NEWS SERVICE OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE • WWW.JTA.ORG

## Jewish communities on alert after Seattle federation rampage

By SUE FISHKOFF

**O**AKLAND, Calif. (JTA)— Jewish communities across the United States are being urged to remain vigilant, be in touch with police and other law enforcement agencies and review their security arrangements after a fatal shooting at Seattle's Jewish federation.

But leaders of national Jewish organizations report that their institutions are operating as usual, without panic.

"We've taken our cue from the Seattle police, that this was an isolated incident by one individual," Aaron Rosenthal, spokesman for the San Francisco JCC, said of last Friday's attack, which left one person dead and five injured. "But it's certainly created a heightened sense of awareness."

The JCC has been in touch with other local Jewish agencies, including the Anti-Defamation League and Jewish Community Relations Council, "to keep tabs on the community," and the facility's security director has "been talking to police about whether there's a need to step up our security," Rosenthal said.

"There's obviously increased anxiety," said Deborah Dragon of the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles, which held a staff meeting Monday morning to assuage workers' fears. "As Jewish people, we're aware that we're potential targets for hate crime regardless of what's happening in the Middle East."

On Tuesday, two Jewish groups joined U.S. senators in calling on the Homeland Security Department to release funds to protect high-risk nonprofits.

Representatives from the Orthodox Union and United Jewish Communities joined Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.), Sen. Barbara Mi-

kulski (D-Md.) and Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) at a news conference to demand that a \$25 million grant program, which has been withheld from non-profits this year due to bureaucratic issues, be distributed promptly.

Speakers said the Seattle attack underscored the need for federal funding to protect "soft targets," many of them Jewish.

"We are now contending not just with the escalating tension amid the Mideast crisis, but also with well-founded reports that there are Islamic radicals mobilizing in this country who espouse Al-Qaida's terrorist ideology, but who are not formally linked to the group," said William Daroff, UJC's vice president for public policy and director of its Washington office.

The Seattle attack occurred last Friday afternoon when a Muslim man angry at Israel allegedly took a teenage girl hostage, forced his way through the Seattle federation's first-floor security door and walked upstairs to the federation reception desk, where he began shooting.

Pam Waechter, 58, the director of the federation's community campaign, was shot and killed at the scene.

Many Jewish groups around the country reached out to local police, but in some places, police acted first. Rabbi Daniel Isaak of Congregation Neveh Shalom in Portland, Ore., arrived for services that Friday night to see two police cars in the parking lot.

They were "checking someone out," he reported.

The incident turned out to be nothing, but Neveh Shalom hired a private security firm for Shabbat and much of this week.

"The federation building in Seattle was

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## ■ Jewish groups called on Homeland Security to release funds for high-risk nonprofits

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pretty secure," Isaak noted. "How do you prevent someone who comes with a gun and holds it to the head of a 13-year-old? I'm not sure in practical terms how much we can do. Maybe this is in large part for our own mental health."

Soon after the Seattle attack, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations put its Secure Community Network into action for the first time since it was created 18 months ago, sending out a bulletin to member organizations, urging them to implement pre-arranged security measures.

Those groups forwarded the alert to their constituents, including Orthodox, Conservative, Reform and Reconstructionist houses of worship in North America.

Since last Friday, SCN's national director, Paul Goldenberg, has been in contact with the heads of all 155 Jewish federations, Jewish camps and synagogue movements, and has been getting regular updates from the FBI and law enforcement around the country.

"I can assure you that this is not an overreaction," said Goldenberg, who has 20 years of experience in law enforcement, including a stint as chief of the attorney general's hate crime unit for New Jersey. "Almost every time there's an escalation in the Middle East, there are attacks against Jewish communities in the United States and Europe."

Malcolm Hoenlein, the Conference of Presidents' executive vice chairman, said teleconferences were planned throughout

the day Monday with groups that wanted to discuss security procedures.

The day before the Seattle attack, SCN organized a teleconference with heads of security for every major Jewish federation and senior representatives from eight law enforcement agencies to discuss concerns in the wake of the escalation of violence in Israel and Lebanon.

They specifically discussed the danger of a "lone wolf" attack, which is what happened the following day in Seattle.

"People may say it's just one person, and I am not saying that Hezbollah or Al-Qaida are coming after Jewish institutions, but there are people out there influenced by what they see and hear, who act on it," Goldenberg said. "It's very difficult to track these people."

In 1999, one such "lone wolf," a white supremacist, shot and wounded seven people at the North Valley Jewish Community Center near Los Angeles. In 2002, an Egyptian terrorist shot and killed two workers at the El Al counter at Los Angeles International Airport.

Last month in Nashville, an Iraqi national was convicted of buying weapons "so he could shoot and kill Jews," Goldenberg pointed out.

He emphasized, however, "there is no intelligence of any imminent threat," and the Jewish community should "be vigilant" without panicking.

"The most important weapon we have is education," Goldenberg said. "The Jewish community needs to be training its professional staff in security awareness."

Many such programs are free, and are offered by law enforcement agencies. The SCN can "help you navigate the process," Goldenberg said.

Seattle was one of 18 cities that has received \$14 million from the Department of Homeland Security's 2005 budget to provide security for at-risk nonprofit groups. Virtually all the money is earmarked for

enhanced security at Jewish organizations.

An additional \$11 million from that budget went to non-Jewish nonprofit groups, \$25 million promised for 2006 has not yet been disbursed, and the 2007 budget is still being decided.

Daroff said that Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff pledged three weeks ago to release the 2006 funds, but nothing has happened yet.

Daroff's office also has asked for a \$25 million increase to the 2007

budget, citing the ongoing conflict in the Middle East.

Some Jewish organizations already have spent some of their homeland security funding. Jewish day schools in Chicago, for example, installed materials on their windows to prevent shattered glass in case of a bombing.

The Atlanta Jewish federation has used its funding for what security director Richard Raisler calls "target hardening," meaning physical security measures such as access control, cameras and other upgrades.

Other communities haven't yet put the money to work, particularly those in the West, the last to submit their grant applications.

San Francisco's JCC, for example, "has a plan in place to enhance security in the front of our building," Rosenthal said, but it's "still in the conceptual stage."

Monday afternoon, the Orthodox Union urged its synagogues to create a standing "security committee" that would have "ready access to law enforcement and security contacts," and to let their local police know the times of services and other planned gatherings.

Ultimately, there's only so much that security barriers can accomplish.

"If we have to build walls around our JCCs and camps, then the people who want to harm us have succeeded," Goldenberg said. "Creating a secure culture can be done in other ways — learning how to see threats and protecting against them." ■

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**William Daroff**  
United Jewish Communities

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JTA WORLD REPORT is published five days a week, except holidays, by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Inc., 330 Seventh Ave., New York, N.Y. 10001-5010. For more information about how to subscribe by e-mail, fax or regular mail, call (212) 643-1890, or visit our Web site at [www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org).  
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# Israel, Lebanon clash on cease-fire plan

BY LESLIE SUSSER

JERUSALEM (JTA) — International efforts to end Israel-Hezbollah fighting moved into high gear after the tragic killing of civilians in the Lebanese city of Kana, but there remain fundamental differences between Israel and Lebanon over what needs to be done next.

The Lebanese want an immediate cease-fire, and only then to start talking about new arrangements on the ground and a prisoner exchange. Israel wants all the elements of a long-term agreement sewn up first, and only then to declare a cease-fire.

The United States tends to side with Israel; most of the international community sides with Lebanon. The outcome of this argument will be crucial in determining what kind of arrangements are eventually put in place.

The Lebanese hold that stopping the bloodshed is the most urgent concern. Israel counters that a cease-fire without an overall agreement simply would enable Hezbollah to rebuild its capacity to fire rockets while talks on the agreement stretch out, possibly for months.

The Israelis want more time for military operations they hope will weaken Hezbollah enough to facilitate the implementation of a deal in which the terrorist organization is disarmed.

Israel's main goal is to secure future arrangements on the ground that would eliminate Hezbollah's rocket threat to Israel. To achieve this, some Israeli strategists are ready for a far-reaching agreement that entails the return of Shebaa Farms, a sliver of Syrian land that Israel has occupied since the 1967 Six-Day War and to which Lebanon has concocted a claim that the international community rejects. Others go further and urge the inclusion of Syria in a comprehensive agreement to stabilize the situation in the North.

Following are three main approaches to resolving the crisis:

- Reaffirmation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1559 of September 2004, and the deployment of an international force to facilitate its implementation.

The key provisions of 1559 are paragraphs 3 and 4, which call for "the disbanding and disarmament of all Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias" — such as Hezbollah — and "the extension of the control of the government of Lebanon over all Lebanese territory." That would include deploy-

ing the Lebanese army along the border with Israel, an area that the Lebanese government until now has left in Hezbollah's hands.

Lebanese officials say first there must be a cease-fire and then an exchange of prisoners, after which it would consider allowing a multinational force to enter Lebanon to help the army move south to the border with Israel. The Lebanese also are ambivalent about the multinational force disarming Hezbollah — after indicating an initial readiness, they now say Hezbollah must remain intact as a bulwark against Israeli "aggression."

Israel says the multinational force's composition and mandate must be agreed upon first. It should have at least 10,000 well-trained troops and be empowered to disarm Hezbollah, prevent weapons smuggling from Syria, help the Lebanese army assert its authority in the South and be strong enough to use force if necessary.

Israel rejects Lebanon's sequential approach and argues that the cease-fire, prisoner exchange and international force deployment must occur simultaneously.

The United States, which is playing a major role in the formulation of the peace package, sees three elements: a cease-fire, a stabilizing force and a long-term, "sustainable" settlement. But like Israel, it argues that imposing a cease-fire before the whole package is agreed upon would be self-defeating.

As part of the package, Israel also is calling for the establishment of a second, non-military international force to help rebuild Lebanon. The idea is to prevent Iran, the country behind Hezbollah, from gaining a firmer foothold in Lebanon by providing the tools and funds for reconstruction.

But what happens if Hezbollah refuses to go along with the plan: Will the international force be ready to confront well-armed militiamen? That's why Israel says more time is necessary to wear down Hezbollah before a cease-fire is declared.

- Shebaa Farms: Paragraph 2 of Resolution 1559 calls on "all remaining foreign forces to withdraw from Lebanon." At the time that was aimed at Syria, but now the

Lebanese say it also means Israeli withdrawal from the Shebaa Farms area.

The Shebaa Farms are eight isolated groups of huts used by shepherds in winter, which have no strategic value to Israel or Lebanon. After Israel's withdrawal to the international border in 2000, Lebanon suddenly raised a claim to the Shebaa Farms. The United Nations, which checked the data, found Lebanon's claim baseless and said the issue must be settled between Israel and Syria.

Now, however, Syria may be prepared to waive its rights to the land, and some Israeli strategists say that handing them to Lebanon would put an end to all territorial claims on Israel

from both the Lebanese government and Hezbollah.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert apparently is ready to put the Shebaa Farms on the table, but critics say giving Shebaa to Lebanon would constitute a prize for terrorism, and would undermine one of the main goals of Israel's military action: restoring Israel's deterrent capacity.

- Syria: A growing number of Israeli strategists argue that the only way to stabilize the situation in the North is to bring Syria into a more comprehensive agreement. Of all the potential players, only Damascus has the clout to keep Hezbollah quiet, strategists say. From a regional perspective, they argue that detaching Syria from the Iranian axis would enable the formation of a pro-Western, mainly Sunni front against an increasingly isolated Shi'ite Iran.

Why would Syria want to come in? Strategists say the Alawite regime in Damascus fears two things: fundamentalists and Israel. Coming over to the Western side and stabilizing Israel's northern border would help them on both counts.

But Israel may have to pay a high price for Syria's cooperation — willingness to begin negotiations on the return of the strategic Golan Heights captured from Syria in 1967.

But will the Olmert government be prepared to put the Golan Heights on the negotiating table in order to make strategic gains in Lebanon, and vis-a-vis Iran? That remains to be seen.

Strategists say the Alawite regime in Damascus fears two things: fundamentalists and Israel.

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## MIDDLE EAST

### Olmert: Offensive changed region

Ehud Olmert said Israel's Lebanon offensive had changed the Middle East.

"Were the military campaign to end today, we could say with certainty that the face of the Middle East had changed," the Israeli prime minister said in a speech Tuesday.

Commentators interpreted the remarks as suggesting that by beating back Hezbollah, Israel had sent a serious deterrent message to the Lebanese militia's patrons, Iran and Syria.

"This threat will not be what it was. Never will they be able to threaten this people they fired missiles at. This people will defeat them," Olmert said of Hezbollah, but he added that Israel could not be expected to destroy the militia's capabilities completely.

### Israel limits expectations on missiles

Israel's armed forces cannot destroy all of Hezbollah's missile capabilities, an Israeli Cabinet minister said.

"There is no way that the last of Hezbollah's missiles will be destroyed.

There is no such option, not by ground forces and not from the air," Housing and Construction Minister Meir Sheerit told Israel Radio on Tuesday. His remarks appeared to be part of government efforts to reduce public expectations of the three-week-old offensive against the Lebanese terrorist group, especially given international efforts to secure a cease-fire and impose a peacekeeper force.

"When there is an accord, if there is an accord, just as we will be able to resume firing, they can renew firing," he said.

Israeli officials said Monday that around two-thirds of Hezbollah's long-range Zelzal-2 missiles had been destroyed on the ground, but the militia retains thousands of Katyusha rockets.

### Israel kills two Palestinians in Gaza

An Israeli airstrike killed two Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

Tuesday's strike, which the Israeli army said was aimed at a group of men planning to fire a Kassam rocket into Israel, killed a Palestinian woman and teenager, Ha'aretz reported.

Five Kassam rockets slammed into southern Israel on Tuesday. No injuries were reported.

### Ex-settlers remember Gaza

Former Gaza settlers marked a year since Israel began its withdrawal from the coastal strip.

Representatives of some 8,500 Israelis uprooted from Gush Katif and other settlement blocks planned to drive in a convoy Tuesday from the Gaza border crossing of Kissufim to Jerusalem and hold a memorial service at the Western Wall.

### Palestinians rally for Hezbollah

Thousands of Palestinians in the West Bank rallied for Hezbollah. Protesters at Tuesday's rally in Ramallah called on Hezbollah's leader, Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, to bomb Tel Aviv, the Jerusalem Post reported. They also chanted against the United States and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

### Peres: Lebanon government a 'prima donna'

Shimon Peres described the Lebanese government as a "prima donna," expecting others to fight its battles instead of confronting Hezbollah directly. "Lebanon is crying. Why is she crying? Let her do the minimum necessary to stop Hezbollah from firing from her midst," Peres told reporters in New York on Monday. The vice prime minister said Israel would be "more and more careful" with its

attacks in Lebanon after the killing Sunday of civilians in Kana, but would continue with its campaign to root out Hezbollah. Israel will go "from nest to nest and destroy the weapons and take all of their leaders," he said, adding: "It will take us time." The way to end the war is for the Security Council to exert economic pressure on Syria and Iran, Hezbollah's patrons, he said.

## NORTH AMERICA

### U.S. envoy: Israeli statement 'outrageous'

Claims that Israel has a green light to fight in Lebanon until it ousts Hezbollah are "outrageous," a top aide to President Bush said. In interviews over the weekend with Malaysian media, Karen Hughes, Bush's envoy for public diplomacy in the Middle East, rejected Israeli Justice Minister Haim Ramon's claim of U.S. authorization to wipe out Hezbollah.

"That is an outrageous statement," Hughes said. "It is false, and my understanding is the government of Israel has disavowed it."

### Apologies for Seattle shooter's actions

The parents of the man suspected of the deadly shooting at the Seattle Jewish federation apologized for their son's actions. In letters to Jewish groups, Mian and Nahida Haq said they don't want last Friday's act to create hatred between Jews and Muslims, the family's lawyer said.

Naveed Afzal Haq allegedly killed one person and wounded five others in the incident after making anti-Semitic comments. He is believed to suffer from mental illness. The woman killed in the attack, Pam Waechter, was buried Monday after a funeral service attended by an estimated 1,300 people.

## WORLD

### WJC drops lawsuit

The World Jewish Congress dropped a lawsuit against one of its former senior vice presidents. The congress said it was withdrawing its lawsuit against Isi Leibler, an Australian who lives in Jerusalem, to focus on "the organization's critical work on behalf of Jews and Jewish communities around the world."

The Executive Council of Australian Jewry recently withdrew from the congress because the group was refusing to withdraw the lawsuit. Leibler was expelled from the congress' steering committee in 2004 following a published report in which he alleged financial improprieties at the organization.

An investigation by the attorney general of New York, where the congress is based, found financial impropriety but no criminal wrongdoing or loss of charitable funds.

### Australian police probe synagogue attack

Police in Sydney, Australia, are searching for 10 men who attacked a synagogue in the city's suburbs. Rabbi Yossi Wernick, 32, who came to Sydney a year ago from New York, was at home with his family when the attack took place.

The house, adjacent to the Parramatta synagogue, was also attacked with bricks and lumps of concrete that damaged doors, windows and the rabbi's car. No one was hurt in the incident, believed to be the work of men of Middle Eastern origin.

### Graffiti defaces Scotland synagogue

Jewish leaders in Scotland condemned graffiti at Scotland's oldest synagogue.

The word "Hezbollah" was smeared across the Garnethill Synagogue in Glasgow earlier this week, according to the BBC.