

**IN THE NEWS**
**Rocket attack kills 12 Israelis**

At least 12 Israelis were killed in a Hezbollah rocket attack on northern Israel.

Sunday's Katyusha attack on Kibbutz Kfar Giladi, where reserve soldiers are believed to be headquartered, is the most deadly barrage into Israel since the war with Hezbollah began in mid-July.

**Lebanon rejects Security Council draft**

A leading Lebanese politician said Lebanon rejects a U.N. Security Council draft resolution aimed at ending fighting between Israel and Hezbollah.

Lebanon's Parliament speaker, Nabih Berri, said Lebanon would refuse to accept the resolution because it allows Israeli troops to remain in Lebanon.

Syria also said it rejects the resolution.

Shimon Peres, Israel's deputy prime minister, told CNN's Wolf Blitzer on Sunday that Israel would wait until the proposal, which does not call for the return of the two Israeli soldiers Hezbollah kidnapped last month, is finalized before reacting.

The draft resolution calls for Hezbollah to stop all military operations and for Israel to stop its push into Lebanon, which could allow Israel to keep troops in Lebanon as a defensive measure.

The proposal agreed to by France and the U.S. this weekend would allow Israel to strike back if Hezbollah were to break a cease-fire.

The U.S. secretary of state, Condoleezza Rice, said Sunday that the Security Council could vote on the resolution in the coming days.

**Rockets kill 3 after striking Haifa**

At least three people were killed after several rockets struck the Israeli city of Haifa.

Dozens were wounded Sunday evening after the Hezbollah-fired rockets struck the port city.

# WORLD REPORT

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## Israeli kids safe at summer camp, but worry about parents back home

By BRETT KLINE

**P**ETACH TIKVA (JTA) — Wide-eyed Daniel's eyes grow even wider when he talks about hearing the Katyushas hit near his house in Haifa.

"It's nice to come to this camp and be out of the city," the 10-year-old says.

"One of the bombs hit my uncle's house in Haifa. I'm sure there will be more bombs," he adds philosophically.

Says Fayed, age 9, from Sha'ab, an Arab village near Carmiel: "I came here because I didn't want to hear the bombs."

Daniel and Fayed are among nearly 20,000 children from northern Israel evacuated since Hezbollah began bombing Israel on July 12.

The camp they attend, which takes up to 600 children for five-day stays, is in the Baptisti Village Hayarkon Park complex near the town of Petach Tikva. The camp is run by the Hanoar Haoved V'halomed, the largest youth movement in Israel.

Funded by the Jewish Agency for Israel, the camp is one of the largest of 20 camps and four youth villages in an agency program called "Embracing the Confrontation Line Children."

The coordinators, all in their 20s, realize that the crisis has created an opportunity.

"The kids come from different worlds in the north, except for the Haifa kids who live in somewhat mixed neighborhoods," explained the camp's educational director, Liza Atlas. "While we try to give them the same values about equality and opportunity, it has always been easier for cultural and logistical reasons to run the camps separately. This is the first time in our movement that Jewish, Arab and Druse kids are together, and it is a success."

The Jewish Agency's chairman, Zeev Bielski, came up with the idea of opening the camps on the night of July 13 and immediately found \$1 million in funding from the United Jewish Communities, the umbrella organization of Jewish federations in North America.

Since then, Bielski has raised close to \$3 million from the UJC and Keren Hayesod, which raises money for Jews around the world.

More money has come from Israeli companies and private sources, as well as from private international donors.

Bielski himself insisted on putting the Jewish, Arab and Druse kids together in the two youth movement camps.

"I wanted to get the kids out of the North," he said, "and the war has shown us that it doesn't matter if you are Jewish or Arab. If you are Israeli, you are under attack. This is the first time, as far as I know, that JAFI funding has gone toward the Arab sector like this."

The youth movement acted quickly after getting the call from JAFI.

"In one night we found this complex, contacted the parents, put the kids on the buses and got them the hell out of the north," technical coordinator Efrat Shaked says. "Their camp counselors from each community, 16-18 year-olds, came with them. For many of the 9- and 10-year-olds, this is the first time they have left home, so their counselors are a real security net."

Everything in the camp is outdoors under drooping eucalyptus trees.

Jewish kids sleep on one side in sleeping bags without tents. boys and girls more or less separated.

The Druse and Arab kids sleep in their own

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## ■ Money from abroad helps children from northern Israel find shelter in camps

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separate areas, in tents. "The boys and girls cannot just sleep separately; they must have some kind of physical barrier between them, such as a tent," Shaked says. "This is their culture, and we respect that."

One recent day, Druse and Arab kids are busy putting up tents with the help of their counselors as some of the Jewish kids look on. The day has been spent at a nearby Luna water park, and athletic competitions await after dinner.

"Contrary to what you might think, not one Jewish kid has asked, How come they get tents and we don't?" Efrat says. "When they arrive here to spend five days away from the North, they are mostly excited and worried."

Often when kids go to summer camp, their parents worry about them.

"Here, it is the opposite," she says. "The kids are worried about their parents, who in many cases are still home in the north. Not everyone can afford hotel rooms in Tel Aviv and Eilat, and some people cannot leave their jobs for various reasons."

Luba and Omer are among a group of kids sitting in a circle, singing with their counselors.

"I saw the bombs make the houses shake," says Luba, 11, from Haifa. "We went to the shelters. My parents are still at work. I'm glad to be here, but I'm worried about them."

Omer, also 11, knows about politics.

"We don't want to kill the Lebanese people, especially the children," he says. "We just want to destroy the Hezbollah. And I think it is great that the kids from the Arab

villages in the north are here with us. I have never talked with them before. So maybe we can get to know them now."

"In the village, people say it is 'maktub,' your destiny, if you get hit by a bomb," says Muzia, an 18-year-old counselor from Sha'ab.

She explains that there are no shelters in Arab villages.

At headquarters, a large tent under the trees, coordinators are sitting in front of

computers. Shai Nir is handling phone calls from parents.

He says that about 40 parents have called from bomb shelters to make sure their kids are all right. "We reassure them," he says. "The kids are fine."

He looks toward the armed guards at the entrance to the camp.

"The North is not far away, but here, the kids are safe," he says. "The rest is not in our hands." ■

## WJC drops suit against critic

By URIEL HEILMAN

JERUSALEM (JTA) — A long, ugly and public brouhaha at the World Jewish Congress seems to have reached a quiet end, with the termination of a lawsuit brought by the group and its longtime leader against the chief critic of the WJC's financial management.

The withdrawal of the defamation suit against Isi Leibler by Rabbi Israel Singer, now chairman of the WJC's policy council, ends a two-year saga that brought into public view a spat between two Jewish leaders, exposed financial mismanagement at the WJC and tarnished the reputation of the 70-year-old organization.

The WJC announced in an internal newsletter recently that its steering committee "is withdrawing its lawsuit against Isi Leibler without prejudice and takes Leibler at his word that he will cease his 'war' and other agitation against the organization and its leadership."

The move came days after the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, an Australian group that is affiliated with the WJC, announced it was quitting the international organization. That followed a warning by the Australians several weeks ago that they would quit the organization unless WJC leaders in New York dropped the lawsuit by July 25.

Leibler, a former senior vice president of the WJC who is a native of Australia, said he feels vindicated — as he did when the New York state attorney general's report on the WJC came out six months ago.

That report found that the congress lacked "appropriate financial controls" and made "inappropriate disbursements"

to top WJC officials, including \$300,000 to Singer. But it did not find any criminal misconduct.

In an interview with JTA, Leibler suggested that the filing of the defamation lawsuit against him by WJC leaders in New York — WJC's president, Edgar Bronfman; Singer; and the group's secretary-general, Stephen Herbits — was a case of hubris gone overboard.

"Arrogance and rage led them into this irrational libel suit, which simply drew attention to everything and made this whole scandal continue," Leibler said. "I just

hope that the World Jewish Congress has learned a lesson, and I hope they find new leaders and implement the reforms of the attorney general."

The lawsuit against Leibler — whose 12-page memo two years ago set off the controversy with questions about the group's governance and financial management — was dropped without fanfare.

WJC officials in New York declined to discuss the matter with JTA. A statement by Herbits suggested that the organization wants to shift its focus away from interne-cine bickering toward matters of greater substance to the Jewish people.

"At this time of increased peril to Israel and the Jewish people, it is time to focus on the organization's critical work on behalf of Jews and Jewish communities around the world," Herbits said in the statement.

Grahame Leonard, president of the Australian Jewish organization, which had withdrawn from the WJC, said Australian Jewry would not be so quick to return to the WJC. ■

(JTA correspondent Henry Benjamin in Sydney, Australia, contributed to this report.)

An ugly brouhaha appears to have reached a quiet end.

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# Spanish leader leads anti-Israel chorus

By JEROME SOCOLOVSKY

MADRID, Spain (JTA) — The prime minister poses for a photo wearing a Palestinian headdress. The opposition accuses him of anti-Semitism and “Israelophobia.”

The war between Israel and Hezbollah is having repercussions in Spain in ways not seen before. After decades of pro-Arab sympathies, Spanish governments in recent years have made efforts to moderate their views on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

But amid the latest flare-up of violence, the Socialist prime minister, Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, has been one of the fiercest critics of Israel in the European Union, accusing it of using “abusive force” and failing to learn what he sees as the lessons of the Iraq war — that military action produces “radicalization, fanaticism and instability.”

At a July 19 rally, Zapatero was photo-

graphed wearing a kaffiyeh, the Palestinian headdress that in Europe symbolizes the radical anti-Israeli left.

Even though Zapatero didn't put the kaffiyeh on himself — a member of the Al Fatah youth group did so — the prime minister later said he didn't regret posing for the photo, and would do it again.

“When in the heat of a tough and bloody war, the prime minister of a country wears the Palestinian symbol and doesn't do something similar with a Jewish symbol, he is sending plenty of messages, none of which are of neutrality,” Pilar Rahola, a pro-Israeli commentator, wrote in the El Pais newspaper. “Do we need a reminder that that quaint symbol is also used to fire tens of thousands of rockets against Israel, or to indoctrinate suicide bombers?”

Zapatero's comments and kaffiyeh posed Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, to say that the “Spanish prime minister wears his anti-Israel bias on his sleeve.”

Zapatero was elected following massive terror bombings on the Spanish train system in March 2004 and immediately pulled Spanish troops out of Iraq.

He has been promoting an “alliance of civilizations” as an alternative to the Bush administration's war on terrorism, arguing that the threat from Islamic terrorism should be reduced not through military action but through dialogue and mutual understanding between Islam and the West.

Jose Maria Lassalle, a lawmaker from Spain's conservative Popular Party, said Zapatero's idealism is leading him to see everything as “good guys vs. bad guys,” blinding him to the complexities of the Middle East conflict.

Lassalle acknowledged that popular sentiment in Spain is anti-Israeli, and he accused Zapatero of pandering to it.

Indeed, protesters burned an Israeli flag at a demonstration in front of the Israeli Embassy, while Spanish media have focused on the suffering of Lebanese and

Palestinian civilians and underreported the threat to Israel.

The Portuguese Nobel laureate Jose Saramago wrote in El Pais, “As long as a single Palestinian is still alive, the holocaust will continue.”

The stepped-up criticism began in late June, as Israel responded with military strikes in the Gaza Strip to the killing of two soldiers and kidnapping of a third by Hamas. At the time, the president of the

Madrid regional government, Esperanza Aguirre, made a trip to Israel.

Aguirre wanted to see if Israeli water-management technology could be used in Madrid. When she returned, the head of the Socialist faction in the regional assembly said Aguirre's visit had helped legitimize “the aggressive, warlike and I would even say genocidal policy by the State of Israel toward Pal-

estine and its population.”

Then Zapatero added his voice.

At a Socialist Party meeting several days after Israel began retaliating for a July 12 Hezbollah attack that left eight Israeli soldiers dead and two

captured, Zapatero criticized the death of civilians.

When Socialist Party official Jose Blanco went further and said Lebanese civilians were “deliberate targets” for the Israeli military, Zapatero defended him. He also responded to criticism that his foreign policy was anti-Semitic.

“When somebody disagrees with Spain, you don't have to call him anti-Spanish,” he said, “and when somebody criticizes Israel, there's no need to call him an anti-Semite.”

The allegation of anti-Semitism had been leveled by Mauricio Hatchwell, a Spanish Jewish businessman who is a member of a commission investigating Nazi gold transactions during World War II.

Several days later, Gustavo de Aristegui, the Popular Party's chief foreign affairs spokesman in Parliament, backed up Hatchwell's accusation, saying Zapatero's views on Israel are the product of “anti-Semitism, anti-Zionism and Israelophobia.”

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES

The Spanish prime minister is 'sending plenty of messages, none of which is neutral.'

Pilar Rahola  
Pro-Israel commentator

## THIS WEEK

### MONDAY

■ Amnesty International organizes vigils around the world to demand an immediate cease-fire in the Israel-Hezbollah war and call for arms suppliers to cut off both sides. The U.S. vigil is being held outside the U.S. State Department.

■ Worldpride 2006, a weeklong gay pride event, begins in Jerusalem. Police have banned the group from a planned march, but other events, including a gay clergy conference and a film festival, will go ahead.

■ The Anti-Defamation League and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum host Roman Catholic educators from Washington, Virginia, Maryland and North Carolina for a four-day Holocaust education conference.

### TUESDAY

■ The Lebanese Embassy and a broad coalition of Arab American groups host an open house in suburban Washington to show solidarity with Lebanon.

### SATURDAY

■ ANSWER, an anti-war, anti-Israel group, leads an “emergency march” in Washington “to defend the people of Palestine and Lebanon.”

### SUNDAY

■ A genealogy conference opens in New York that is expected to attract up to 2,000 participants. The 26th annual International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies runs through Aug. 18.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### MIDDLE EAST

#### Israel bombs Beirut, southern Lebanon

Israel bombed suspected Hezbollah targets in southern Lebanon and Beirut. In addition to Sunday's airstrikes, which reportedly killed five civilians, at least 10 Hezbollah fighters were reportedly killed in clashes with Israeli soldiers in southern Lebanon.

Several Israeli soldiers were wounded in the fighting.

#### Israel: We've got fighter involved in kidnap

Israel said one of the Hezbollah fighters it is holding was involved in the kidnapping of two Israeli soldiers, an act that helped trigger the current warfare.

The head of intelligence for the Israel Defense Forces, Maj. Gen. Amos Yadlin, made the announcement Sunday during the Israeli government's weekly Cabinet meeting.

#### Israeli attack kills dozens of civilians

An Israeli airstrike in Lebanon killed at least 28 farm workers.

The bomb hit a refrigerated warehouse last Friday in al-Qaa, a town near the Syrian border and near a Hezbollah stronghold. Hospital officials said at least 28 farm workers were killed.

Syria's national news agency said 33 were killed, 23 of them Syrians. Israel said it was checking the report and suggested that the vegetable warehouse had been mistaken for a missile store.

#### Iran confirms missile supply

An Iranian official confirmed last Friday that Tehran supplied long-range Zelzal-2 missiles to Hezbollah.

Mohtashami Pur, secretary-general of the "Intifada Conference," told an Iranian newspaper that Iran transferred the missiles to the Lebanese terrorist group, Ha'aretz reported.

#### Pro-Hezbollah march in Baghdad

Hundreds of thousands of Shi'ites turned out in Baghdad last Friday to show support for Hezbollah.

The demonstrators, who are loyal to the Mahdi Army, a militia started by Muqtada al-Sadr that is modeled on the Lebanese terrorist group, chanted "Death to Israel" and "Death to America" as they marched through Sadr City, a Shi'ite stronghold in the Iraqi capital.

### NORTH AMERICA

#### Senate: E.U. should call Hezbollah terrorists

U.S. senators sent a letter urging the European Union to recognize Hezbollah as a terrorist organization. Sens. Bill Nelson (D-Fla.) and Gordon Smith (D-Ore.) drafted the letter to Javier Solana, secretary-general of the Council of the European Union. The letter garnered 88 signatures. "Placing Hezbollah on the E.U.'s List for the Application of Specific Measures to Combat Terrorism will not only have important symbolic value at such a difficult time, it will also further cut off funding sources and assets that are used to support Hezbollah's ongoing terrorist acts," the letter states.

The Senate letter is similar to a U.S. House of Representatives letter last month that collected more than 200 signatures.

#### Bush extends Iran sanctions deadline

President Bush signed a bill extending sanctions on Iran. The bill extends the Iran-Libya Sanctions Act to Sept. 29, and was signed just hours before it was due to expire after 10 years. The Senate approved the bill early last week. Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-Fla.), who sponsored an identical version that passed overwhelmingly in the U.S. House of Representatives, said the temporary extension is necessary

to provide additional time for House-Senate negotiations on the final text of a much tougher Iran sanctions bill passed this year by the House.

#### U.S. sanctions 7 companies on Iran

The United States imposed sanctions on seven companies from North Korea, Russia, India and Cuba for arms deals with Iran.

"The sanctions apply to the specific entities and their successors, sub-units or subsidiaries, and not to their respective countries or governments," a State Department official was quoted as saying last Friday.

#### Seattle shooting victim recovers

One of the shooting victims at the Seattle Jewish federation is recovering despite an enormous loss of blood and a heart attack. Christina Rexroad, a devout Christian, is an accountant at the federation. One person was killed and five wounded when a Pakistani American, Naveed Afzal Haq, allegedly shot them July 28 after making anti-Semitic comments.

One of the other victims is still in serious condition and on a respirator.

#### Virtual Tourism project opened

An American Jewish umbrella group officially launched a program to boost tourism to Israel. Prospective tourists now can make reservations for Israeli hotels online and use them until June 30, 2007, as part of a "virtual tourism" project conceived by the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

The program allows travelers to choose between hotels, guest-houses and bed and breakfasts throughout the Galilee. The initiative aims to raise \$1 million for Israel's tourism industry, which has been hurt by the war with Hezbollah.

Reservations can be made online at [www.hofesh-latzaon.co.il](http://www.hofesh-latzaon.co.il) or by calling 1-800-738-0548. Also involved are Israel's Tourism Ministry, the Galilee Development Authority, the Israel Hotel Association and the Israeli Prime Minister's Office.

#### Canadian leader confirms Israel support

Canada's prime minister reiterated his support for Israel in its war with Hezbollah, although it may be hurting his government's popularity.

Recent polls show that Stephen Harper's government has slipped in popularity due to its pro-Israel stance, but Harper said his government will not change its positions on the Middle East.

### WORLD

#### Venezuela withdraws ambassador to Israel

Venezuela withdrew its ambassador to Israel to protest the war against Hezbollah.

"We have ordered the withdrawal of our ambassador in Israel," President Hugo Chavez said in a televised speech Aug. 3, calling Israeli retaliation against Hezbollah "genocide." The Associated Press reported. Chavez is a staunch ally of Iran and bitter opponent of the United States.

#### Greens honor prewar owner of house

Austria's Green Party dedicated a memorial to the original Jewish owners of the house that serves as its headquarters. The memorial unveiled last Friday in Vienna honors Albert Pollak, who owned the house before the Nazis annexed Austria in 1938.

Pollak died in 1943 after fleeing to the Netherlands. Since World War II, his family has been renting out the house; the Greens have rented it since 1994.