

IN THE NEWS
Israeli Cabinet approves cease-fire

The Israeli Cabinet approved a U.N. Security Council resolution calling for an Israeli-Hezbollah cease-fire.

On Sunday, the Cabinet voted 24-0, with one abstention, to approve the resolution, which is scheduled to take effect Monday morning. Lebanon's government has already approved the resolution.

Hezbollah's leader, Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, announced Saturday his militia would abide by the truce but also said it reserved the right to fight Israeli troops that remain within Lebanon.

The resolution, approved last Friday by the United Nations, authorizes an increase in the current U.N. peacekeeping force in Lebanon to 15,000 and calls on the peacekeeping force to assist the Lebanese army in keeping the South free of Hezbollah gunmen and preventing arms smuggling into Lebanon.

Israel launches 11th-hour Lebanon sweep

Israeli forces swept up to Lebanon's Litani River, losing at least 29 soldiers in fierce battles at Hezbollah strongholds.

Massive reinforcements of tanks and troops were sent into southern Lebanon over the weekend in an 11th-hour push before a U.N.-brokered cease-fire came into effect.

The operations including one of the largest airdrops of soldiers in Israel's history, and effectively put all of Lebanon south of the strategic Litani River under the military's control. Scores of soldiers were wounded in battles in which at least 80 Hezbollah guerrillas also died.

Among the Israeli fatalities were the five-person crew of a transport helicopter that was shot down as it returned from the Litani.

Israeli troops are expected to hold on to large areas of southern Lebanon until a U.N. peacekeeper force deploys.

WORLD REPORT

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As Hezbollah rockets kill their kids, many Israeli Arabs still blame Israel

By URIEL HEILMAN

NAZARETH, Israel (JTA) — When Israel began dropping bombs on Beirut in response to Hezbollah's cross-border raid on last month, Nael Saleh said he felt upset.

Watching the news from his home in the Israeli city of Nazareth, Saleh saw the destruction in Lebanon as yet another act of "Israeli aggression."

"The Israeli government declared this war against Lebanon for no reason at all," Saleh said. "The law of the jungle is the law that is used in this era. What is forbidden for other nations is allowed for the State of Israel."

As Israel and Lebanon moved closer to a cease-fire over the weekend, Saleh said he opposed any cessation of hostilities that would allow foreign troops to remain in southern Lebanon — even temporarily.

"We are against international forces in southern Lebanon because it is considered as an occupation and it is not for the protection of the Lebanese people, but encouraging the State of Israel not to implement the Geneva Accords and the U.N. resolutions" on eastern Jerusalem, the West Bank, Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights, he said.

Saleh is an Israeli citizen but he is also an Arab — one of approximately 1.2 million in the country out of a total population of slightly more than 7 million.

Though they are Israelis, these Arabs' political leanings generally are closer to those of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, and Arabs elsewhere in the Middle East, than to those of Israeli Jews.

So amid the heavy fighting in Lebanon,



Uriel Heilman

Above a tent in the Israeli city of Nazareth, erected to protest Israel's incursion in Lebanon, are flags for Lebanon, the Palestinians and the Hadash political party.

opinions like Saleh's have become commonplace in places like Nazareth, an Arab city of some 60,000 people in northern Israel — even though Nazareth finds itself in the path of Hezbollah's Katyusha rockets.

When one direct rocket hit on the city killed a pair of Arab brothers, aged 7 and 3, on July 19, a neighborhood sheik blamed their deaths on Israel.

The brothers' aunt reportedly said she was willing to sacrifice herself for Hezbollah leader Sheik Hassan Nasrallah.

These sorts of expressions have prompted some Israeli Jews to label Israeli Arabs as disloyal and untrustworthy, and to implicitly justify the Arabs' second-class treat-

Continued on page 2

■ *Many Israeli Arabs have labeled the current conflict yet another act of 'Israeli aggression'*

Continued from page 1

ment by the Israeli government.

"Most Israeli Arabs identify with the enemy," Michael Kleiner, a former Knesset member and head of the Herut Party, told JTA. "In every battle of ours, from soccer to war, they hate us and seek our downfall and identify with the enemy."

Nowhere is Israeli Arab criticism of Israel more evident than among Israel's Arab legislators. Knesset Member Azmi Bishara, from the Balad Party, said Israel is "deliberately targeting civilians in Lebanon" as part of the Jewish state's "barbaric thirst for revenge," adding, "Israel is a terrorist state."

Not all Arabs in Israel take such harsh views of their country.

"We have to hang Nasrallah — someone who led to so many deaths on both sides," said Nader Aley, a mechanic in Nazareth whose garage is adorned with an Israeli flag. Aley harshly criticized Israeli Arabs who lambaste the Israeli government at every turn. "They want the security of the state, the money of the state and the benefits of the state, but they don't have a kind word for the state," he said bitterly.

■
Israeli Arabs have been disproportionately affected by this war, due to their heavy concentration in the conflict zone in northern Israel.

Arabs have suffered more than one-third of the civilian deaths in northern Israel.

"It's a pity about every drop of blood that's been shed on both sides," said Yousef Farouk, a money-changer in Nazareth. "I blame both sides."

Farouk, like many Arabs in Israel, said he holds Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Nasrallah equally culpable — and he doesn't see them as that different.

"Nasrallah is a man like any man," Farouk said. "I never heard him say he wants to conquer the land of Israel. I believe this just as I believe Olmert. Olmert says he wants to live in peace with his neighbors."

In a region where every country and ethnic group has a competing narrative, Israeli Arabs tend to account for this war differently than most Israeli Jews.

Many say Israel bears the blame for turning a kidnapping incident into a war, and for starting past wars in the Middle East.

They say peace will come only if Israel withdraws from lands they say it occupies illegally: the Golan Heights, the West Bank and Shebaa Farms. A small area occupied by Israel since the 1967 Six-Day War, Hezbollah claims Shebaa Farms as Lebanon's, but the United Nations says it is part of Syria.

■
Israel's policy is "causing continuation of wars. Withdrawal will put an end to all these wars," said Fared Daher, a Nazareth resident and member of Israel's Arab-dominated Hadash Party. "But you want to occupy everything and you want peace."

Daher rejects the notion that he is anti-Israel, and he notes that there are many Israeli Jews who share his views on the

conflict. But at his protest tent in downtown Nazareth last Friday, Daher flew the flags of his party, Palestine and Lebanon, but not the Israeli flag.

The crux of the debate between Daher and the majority of Israelis is that most Israelis believe that, ultimately, Israel's adversaries will not be satisfied with a Jewish state in the Middle East, even if it is configured within Israel's pre-1967 borders.

These Israelis take at face value pronouncements like those of Iran's president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who said as recently as two weeks ago, "The real cure for the conflict is elimination of the Zionist regime."

Such remarks are backed up by Iranian material support for Hezbollah, Hamas and suicide bombings in Israel.

■
Ultimately, many observers believe that Israeli Arabs have less to lose if the Jewish state somehow were to collapse, and more to gain from a broad peace between Israel and the Arab states — even if it comes at a heavy cost to Israeli territory and long-term security.

For the time being, the Arabs of northern Israel are suffering the same fate as the Jews there. Both have paid for this war in blood.

"The blood of a Muslim, or Christian or Jew is the same blood," said Amar Kwaider, a Nazareth resident. "The Katyushas that fall here hurt innocent people — Jew or Arab." ■

When one Hezbollah rocket killed a pair of Arab brothers, aged 7 and 3, in Nazareth, a neighborhood sheik blamed their deaths on Israel.

Lawsuit over Auschwitz suitcase

PRAGUE (JTA) — The son of a man killed at Auschwitz took legal action against the Auschwitz Museum to obtain his father's suitcase, the Sunday Times of London reported. Michel Levi-Leleu spotted his father's suitcase at an exhibition in Paris on the Holocaust that contained items borrowed from Poland's state-run Auschwitz Museum. His father's name and prisoner number are on the suitcase and the Auschwitz Museum agrees that they were his, according to the Times. Levi-Leleu filed

suit against the museum for the return of the suitcase, which he saw for the last time in 1943 when he was three and his father was deported. The museum is seeking to keep the suitcase in an effort to preserve the memory of the Holocaust, according to a museum statement made in court papers cited by the Times. The Times said the case is the first in which a relative has demanded something back from the Auschwitz Museum and officials there worry that the case could set a precedent. ■

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AIPAC judge: Case to proceed

By RON KAMPEAS

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The judge trying the case against two former pro-Israel lobbyists has given the trial a green light, setting the stage for a battle over free-speech rights and Israel's role as an ally of the United States.

On Aug. 10, Judge T.S. Ellis III denied what had been the defense's only possible bid for a dismissal of the case.

He rejected the argument that a never-used 1917 statute under which they have been charged violated the constitutional rights of Steve Rosen, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee's former foreign policy director, and Keith Weissman, AIPAC's former Iran analyst.

The statute criminalizes the receipt — not just the leaking — of "information relating to the national defense" which the possessor has "reason to believe could be used to the injury of the United States or to the advantage of any foreign nation."

But Ellis, a federal judge based in Alexandria, Va., made clear that he would set the bar high for the prosecution because the case could have far-reaching implications.

"It must be said that this is a hard case, and not solely because the parties' positions and arguments are both substantial and complex," Ellis wrote in a 68-page ruling.

"It is also a hard case because it requires an evaluation of whether Congress has violated our Constitution's most sacred values, enshrined in the First and the Fifth Amendment, when it passed legislation in furtherance of our nation's security."

Rosen and Weissman were charged a year ago with receiving classified information about Iran and terrorism from a number of U.S. government officials and relaying it to their colleagues at AIPAC,

THIS WEEK

MONDAY

■ In Washington, Lt. Gen. Moshe Ya'alon, the immediate past Israeli military chief of staff, addresses a Capitol Hill briefing hosted by the Endowment for Middle East Truth. He will discuss the current situation in Lebanon.

TUESDAY

■ Philanthropist Lynn Schusterman formally launches her Center for Leadership Initiatives, a Jewish leadership-training program.

journalists and Israeli officials.

One of those American officials, a mid-level Pentagon Iran analyst, Larry Franklin, pleaded guilty in January to leaking classified information.

A former federal prosecutor said the judge's ruling in denying the motion had no legal bearing on the case itself. However, it served notice to prosecutors that the judge expected a high standard of evidence, Bill Mateja told JTA.

"The court's going to be very mindful that the burden of proof with regard to relaying classified information is going to be more difficult," Mateja said. "The prosecution will have to put on ample evidence that the defendants knew the information was classified."

Rosen and Weissman were fired by AIPAC in March 2005. Their attorneys suggested they never had high hopes for a dismissal, and were heartened by Ellis' cautionary tone.

"Given the always-long odds of having an indictment dismissed before trial, particularly when the government invokes the specter of 'national security,' we are disappointed, but not surprised, at the court's decision," said a joint statement from Abbe Lowell, Rosen's lawyer, and John Nassikas, Weissman's lawyer.

They noted that the judge called on the prosecution to prove that "national security is genuinely at risk" because of the alleged actions of Rosen and Weissman.

The trial is unlikely to start before October.

The prosecution did not return calls for comment. AIPAC also did not comment.

Ellis' most important conclusion was that invoking the statute did not necessarily violate the defendants' First Amendment right to free speech.

Lawyers for the defense had argued that the 1917 statute had never been used before because it was impossible to enforce.

Such a sweeping statute places not just lobbyists but journalists, researchers and average citizens at risk, the lawyers had argued.

Not so, Ellis said in his opinion, noting

that the statute explicitly did not limit itself to government employees like Franklin.

Ellis' decision set off alarms among free-speech activists.

Apparently mindful of such reactions, Ellis suggested that at the trial, he would considerably narrow the prosecution's scope for invoking national security.

The information "must necessarily be information which if disclosed, is potentially

harmful to the United States, and the defendant must know that disclosure of the information is potentially harmful to the United States," he wrote.

Ellis suggested that the clause of the statute criminalizing the

receipt of information "to the advantage of any foreign nation" might be unconstitutional. Ellis cited precedent to argue that the statute should apply only to information that would benefit enemies of the United States.

Targeting information that would benefit allies is "inconsistent with the obvious purpose of the statute and the command of the First Amendment, and must be rejected," he wrote.

Ellis cited a 1945 Supreme Court ruling that warned of "extravagant and absurd consequences" of criminalizing the sharing of information with a "friendly power" or "ally."

That could put the prosecution in the position of having to argue that Israel is not necessarily a "friendly power."

Ellis, who has struggled with the case for months, concluded by suggesting that it was time for Congress to update a classified-information law that dates to the era of telegraphs and carrier pigeons.

Technological advances, he said, "should suggest to even the most casual observer that the time is ripe for Congress to engage in a thorough review and revision of these provisions to ensure that they reflect both these changes, and contemporary views about the appropriate balance between our nation's security and our citizens' ability to engage in public debate about the United States' conduct in the society of nations," he wrote.

Judge Ellis suggested that it was time for Congress to update a classified-information law that dates to the era of telegraphs and carrier pigeons.

NEWS IN BRIEF

MIDDLE EAST

Hezbollah rockets kill Israeli

A Hezbollah rocket killed an Israeli near the northern town of Shlomi. Several people were wounded in the attack on Sunday near the Lebanese border.

Hezbollah fired at least 215 rockets across the border, prompting orders for all northern Israel residents to take to shelters.

Hezbollah man in Israeli hospital

A wounded Hezbollah gunman was taken to Israel for treatment. The fighter was admitted to Haifa's Rambam Hospital under guard on Sunday after Israeli troops discovered him in the aftermath of weekend clashes in southwestern Lebanon.

He was listed in stable condition. At least two other Lebanese, both civilians, have been allowed into Israel for medical treatment during the last month's fighting.

Female reservist killed

The Hezbollah war claimed the life of its first Israeli military servicewoman. Keren Tendler, 26, was a mechanic aboard a CH-53 Sikorsky transport helicopter that Hezbollah shot down over southern Lebanon on Saturday.

She was one of a handful of women mobilized for the war as reservists. Four fellow crewmen died with her.

Author Grossman loses son

A son of Israeli author David Grossman was among the weekend's military fatalities in Lebanon. Sgt. Uri Grossman, 20, was killed by a Hezbollah rocket attack on his tank in southern Lebanon, the army said Sunday.

David Grossman, one of Israel's most well-known writers, had no immediate comment. Last week, Grossman and fellow authors A.B. Yehoshua and Amos Oz issued a joint letter calling on the Olmert government not to expand its offensive against Hezbollah.

Anti-war rally disrupts gay pride event

A rally by the organizers of Jerusalem World Pride, a weeklong gay-pride event, turned sour as police and anti-war demonstrators scuffled.

According to Jerusalem Open House, which organized the Aug. 10 event, the rally was a "protest against the hatred and ongoing incitement that has been targeted at our community in the name of religion."

WORLD

U.N. council blasts Israel

The United Nations' new Human Rights Council voted by a large majority to reproach Israel for its actions in Lebanon. Last Friday's resolution Friday, which condemned Israel for "massive violations of human rights," passed 27-11, while eight abstained.

The council also approved a resolution from the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Arab League to set up a commission to investigate "systematic targeting and killing" of Lebanese civilians by Israel.

Holocaust scholars rebuke Chavez

More than 50 Holocaust scholars sent a letter to Venezuela's president condemning his statements comparing Israel to the Nazis.

The letter sent last Friday asked Hugo Chavez to retract his statements that the Israelis "are doing what Hitler did against the Jews" and that Israel is carrying out "a new Holocaust."

Israeli teens find reprieve in Hungary

An American Jewish group is sending 40 Jewish and Druse teens from northern Israel to a weeklong summer camp in Hungary.

The teens, sponsored by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, arrived last Friday at the JDC/Ronald S. Lauder International Jewish Summer Camp in Szarvas, Hungary. The Israelis will join 450 campers from eight European countries for the current camp session, participating in sports, recreation and other summer programs.

Ambulances airlifted to Israel

Eight ambulances and five mobile intensive-care units were airlifted from Canada to Israel. The vehicles were immediately deployed in the country's North, which has been under Hezbollah rocket bombardment for a month. Canadian Magen David Adom for Israel chartered two El Al 747 cargo jets to ship the vehicles.

Four had been ready to go and the organization purchased another four.

Writer admits to being part of SS

German Nobel Prize winner Gunther Grass admitted he was a member of the Waffen SS at the end of World War II. Grass told the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung newspaper he never saw combat, but ended up behind the Russian front on reconnaissance patrols, witnessing what he described as gruesome scenes and surviving by pure chance.

The new autobiography by Grass, who wrote the novel "The Tin Drum," is due out this fall.

Archbishop fasts for peace

A senior Anglican leader said he will fast for peace in the Middle East. John Sentamu, the archbishop of York, said he would camp inside his cathedral and fast for a week, beginning Sunday.

"This act is a rallying call to people of all faiths and none, to encourage them to feel that there is something to be done," he said.

NORTH AMERICA

Thousands rally against war

About 10,000 protesters rallied in Washington against Israel's actions in the Middle East. The rally outside the White House on Saturday, organized by the Answer organization and a coalition of Arab groups, cheered Hezbollah. "Israel is the cancer of the Middle East," one placard read.

In San Francisco, an estimated 2,000 people rallied Saturday against Israel's military operations.

Program aims to boost northern Israel

A new young Jewish leadership program will launch with a reconstruction campaign in Israel's North.

The first initiative of the Center for Leadership Initiatives, funded by Tulsa, Okla.-based philanthropist Lynn Schusterman, will be a \$1.5 million project that "will bring 500 young Jewish adults from around the world to northern Israel," a release said. "Participants will help repair damage inflicted during the current conflict."

Spielberg foundation gives to Israel

A foundation started by Steven Spielberg will donate \$1 million to relief efforts in Israel.

The Righteous Persons Foundation will make a \$250,000 contribution to the Jewish Federation of Los Angeles Israel Crisis Fund and will follow up with gifts to the New Israel Fund and other organizations assisting people evacuated from northern Israel.