

**IN THE NEWS**
**Israel, West cool on Palestinian unity**

Israel and Western power brokers responded coolly to the planned Palestinian Authority coalition government.

Mahmoud Abbas announced Monday that his Fatah faction would form a national unity coalition with the governing Hamas, in a bid to end a Western aid embargo on the Palestinian Authority and possibly restart peace talks with Israel.

But Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni said negotiations depended on the Palestinian Authority meeting Western demands that it recognize the Jewish state and renounce terrorism.

**Bush calls for unity on Iraq**

President Bush marked the fifth anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks by calling on Americans to support his Iraq policy.

In a 20-minute televised address, Bush described "what we are doing to protect our nation and the building of a more hopeful Middle East that holds the key to peace for America and the world."

Bush addressed critics of the war, who note that the administration's earlier warnings of ties between Al-Qaida and Saddam Hussein and of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction proved untrue, key elements in November midterm elections that could end Republican control of Congress.

**Campaign wants Iran out of U.N.**

A Jewish-led campaign aims to expel Iran from the United Nations. Nobel Prize laureate Elie Wiesel and lawyers Irwin Cotler and Alan Dershowitz are backing the Jerusalem Council for Public Affairs' campaign.

The group will circulate a document calling for the United Nations to oust Iran because it has violated the U.N. Charter with its threats to destroy Israel.

# WORLD REPORT

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## After initial doubts on resolution, consensus emerging on Lebanon

By RON KAMPEAS

**W**ASHINGTON (JTA) — An international consensus is emerging that Lebanon is an abused party that needs to be delicately drawn away from Iran's influence.

The differences between Israel, the United States, Europe and Lebanon that dogged efforts to implement U.N. Security Council Resolution 1701, which ended this summer's Israel-Hezbollah war, are dissipating, diplomats say.

Israel's foreign minister, Tzipi Livni, arrives in Washington on Wednesday for talks with Condoleezza Rice, the U.S. secretary of state, and Stephen Hadley, the White House's national security adviser.

Lebanon tops Livni's agenda, along with Iran's nuclear program, officials said. Benjamin Netanyahu, the leader of Israel's opposition Likud Party, and two top aides to Israel's prime minister, Ehud Olmert, were in Washington last week making the same case.

Of primary importance is the return of two Israeli soldiers whose capture by Hezbollah in a July 12 cross-border raid started the war. After that, Israel wants assurances that Lebanon's border with Syria will be closed to keep Iran from re-arming Hezbollah, its proxy.

That hurdle appeared to be at least partly cleared last week when France, which will head the reconstituted interim force in Lebanon, said it had a mandate to help maintain an arms embargo.

"At the Lebanese government's request, UNIFIL will also have to assist in the effective organization of an embargo on arms

deliveries through controls carried out on the country's borders," France's foreign minister, Philippe Douste-Blazy, told the National Assembly's Foreign Affairs Committee.

Plans to expand UNIFIL from its current hapless form to a viable 15,000-strong international force to police the peace also are coming together, contrary to initial skepticism that the vagueness of the Security Council mandate would discourage nations from joining the force.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES**

Rice made numerous phone calls last week to leaders of Israel, Lebanon and Europe to make sure Israeli troops can withdraw from Lebanon and are replaced by the Lebanese army and the international force, according to Rice's spokesman, Sean McCormack. She was especially forceful about Israel ending its sea and air embargo of Lebanon, which it did by the weekend.

"We said that we believed that properly implemented, effectively implemented, this resolution would not return us to the status quo ante, that it would improve the situation," McCormack said. "Secretary Rice has followed through on that."

Another sign that Israel is eager to reinforce Lebanon's hand is Olmert's reported willingness to consider a handover of the tiny Shebaa Farms area of the Golan Heights if the cease-fire holds.

Lebanon suddenly began claiming the area in 2000 after Israel ended its 18-year occupation of southern Lebanon and withdrew to U.N.-certified lines. The United Nations checked the Lebanese claim and found it baseless.

Israel captured the area from Syria in  
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the 1967 Six-Day War. The United Nations ruled that the area is Syrian, and its status should be resolved between Israel and Syria.

Despite the U.N. ruling, Hezbollah used Israel's presence in the Shebaa Farms as a pretext to continue attacking Israel, a posture that allowed it to maintain arms — and to undermine efforts to shore up Lebanon's government.

Israel's friends in Congress are backing away from earlier threats to withhold assistance from Lebanon until it provides

assurances that the borders with Syria are secure and that Hezbollah is disarmed. Some legislators already are pressing hard for assistance.

"One of the most important elements of establishing peace is initiating reconstruction efforts throughout southern Lebanon immediately," Sen. Russ Feingold (D-Wis.), who is Jewish, told a delegation from the Arab American Institute Tuesday. "The U.S. government must be fully engaged in that effort."

Israel has joined the Bush administration in calling for the immediate disburse-

ment of assistance to Lebanon to counter the influence of Hezbollah, which is flush with Iranian cash that it's using to rebuild the country's South.

Netanyahu, who was maintaining the solidarity with the government that characterized much of the Israeli political establishment during the war, said containing Hezbollah was key to containing Iran and the potential nuclear threat the Islamic republic poses to the region and beyond.

"Hezbollah is Iran's advance force," he said. ■

## Argentina sees upsurge in anti-Israel incidents

By FLORENCIA ARBISER

BUENOS AIRES (JTA) — Anti-Semitic incidents have been on the rise in Argentina since the Israeli-Hezbollah war began in July, and the community is responding.

On the Internet, Jewish intellectuals, professionals and businessmen are running two pro-Israel petitions. The community also has held demonstrations, partly to counter four anti-Israel protests held in front of the local Israeli Embassy by leftist political groups.

The pro-Israel community also is facing criticism from politicians. Government official Luis D'Elia spoke about the Mideast conflict at a street demonstration last week — a speech that journalist Joaquin Morales Sola thought really took aim at interfaith relations in Argentina.

It's one thing to advocate "a solution for the Palestinian people — that must

happen — but it's another to support Hezbollah's anti-Jewish affiliation," Morales Sola wrote in *La Nacion*.

After the month-long war began in mid-July, Buenos Aires' public Philosophy and Literature University was vandalized several times with anti-Israel graffiti. Last week the university's walls were plastered with anti-Israel posters, said Jorge Kirszenbaum, president of the Jewish community's DAIA umbrella group.

"Be patriotic; kill Jews," was written on university classrooms and bathrooms.

DAIA criticized the graffiti, as did Jorge Bergoglio, archbishop of Buenos Aires.

"Under the pretended ideology of leftist youth groups against Zionism and the United States, there is a clear, prejudiced slant," Kirszenbaum, who later met with the university's director, told JTA.

On Aug. 30, the Senate passed a resolution deploring the graffiti. But incidents have continued: Also Aug. 30, some 4,000 people demonstrated against Israel in front of the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires. The protesters were mostly left-wingers, human rights activists or extremist Muslims. Quebracho, a left-wing group that last month prevented an anti-Iran demonstration organized by the Jewish community, also participated.

Nearby, in downtown Buenos Aires, graffiti appeared equating Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert with former Argentine dictators. And on Sept. 4, more

anti-Semitic graffiti was found, this time at San Luis University in central Argentina.

After meeting with the country's interior minister, Jewish leaders from DAIA and AMIA, the Jewish community's main institution, filed a lawsuit against Quebracho last Friday at the Federal Court, accusing it of incitement and disturbing public order.

The situation "gives us enormous preoccupation and sadness as Argentines," not just as Jewish leaders, Kirszenbaum and Luis

Grynwald, AMIA's president, wrote in their suit. ■

According to Sergio Widder, the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Latin American representative, the regional alliance between extremist Muslim groups and extremist left-wing political groups already is known in the region, and has been a subject of concern to the center for several years.

"However, it's new that this alliance is open in Argentina," Widder told JTA.

To Widder, the developments indicate a breaking point in Argentine society. After bombing attacks in the early 1990s on the local Israeli Embassy and AMIA and the revelation of Hezbollah's connection to the attacks, no one dared to openly express an affiliation with Hezbollah. But that taboo has now been broken, Widder said.

"The street demonstrations in front of the Israeli Embassy, as well as the Philosophy University incidents, take primitive anti-Semitic arguments and go beyond the Middle East conflict," he said. ■



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# Groups gear up for Darfur rally

By JACOB BERKMAN

NEW YORK (JTA) — As Darfur advocates prepare for “Save Darfur Day,” American Jewish groups once again have positioned themselves at the center of the movement to save the war-torn African region from genocide — despite some concern that Israel’s recent war in Lebanon might have pulled some Jews away from the issue.

Sudan’s Darfur region has deteriorated into civil war since February 2003, when rebel groups, upset that the oil-rich government had left the area in squalor, attacked Sudanese military institutions.

The government allegedly enlisted militias known as Janjaweed to rout out disloyal groups, using a scorched-earth policy to destroy up to 90 percent of villages in the region and kill as many as 400,000 people, according to some estimates.

In April, the Save Darfur Coalition, a collaboration of 175 faith-based and humanitarian organizations initiated by the American Jewish World Service and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, drew 60,000 to 75,000 people to a rally in Washington aimed at bringing attention to the situation.

Some 25,000 of those attending were Jews, according to Ruth Messinger, the president of the AJWS.

The Sept. 17 followup rally in New York City’s Central Park, which will feature Madeleine Albright, a former U.S. secretary of state; Larry Cox, director of Amnesty International USA; and musical performances by Big & Rich and O.A.R., among others, is meant to push the United Nations to deploy an international peacekeeping force to Darfur, in line with a resolution it passed two weeks ago, said Alex Meixner, the Save Darfur Coalition’s policy coordinator.

The U.N. force has yet to be deployed because the world body has not found nations willing to commit troops and because the Sudanese government is refusing to let them into the country, Meixner said.

“No U.N.-authorized peacekeeping force has ever failed to deploy,” Meixner said. “If it lets Sudan — the villains of the peace — have a veto, it is a horrible precedent, and it says that the world is willing to pay lip service to the situation, but not to do the hard work.”

Working with the AJWS, the Jewish

Council for Public Affairs, the United Jewish Communities and the UJA-Federation of New York, the Save Darfur Coalition organized the New York rally as the centerpiece of Sunday’s “Save Darfur Day.” Similar but smaller rallies will be held in some 30 cities in two dozen countries.

The question was whether Jews would turn out in the same numbers as they did in April.

Some organizers, such as Rabbi Steve

Gutow, executive director of JCPA, said they initially doubted another rally would draw a large turnout because so much of the Jewish community’s energy had been diverted toward supporting an Israel at war, but those fears appear to be unfounded.

“I don’t think that there has been any diminution of Jewish support for stopping the slaughter in Sudan,” Gutow told JTA from Israel. “The community has shown that it has maintained in its gut two very important concerns and that it will do all that it can do.”

JERUSALEM (JTA) — A petition submitted to Israel’s Supreme Court demanded a permit for a gay pride parade on the eve of Rosh Hashanah.

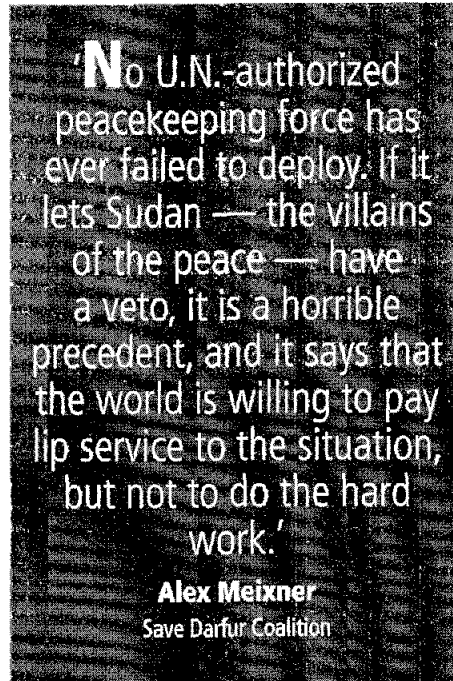
Officials with Jerusalem Open House said they submitted the petition Monday in conjunction with the Association for Civil Rights in Israel after a proposed parade date was refused and police didn’t respond to requests for several alternate dates. Police officials have said the initial proposed date in September was too close to the holidays.

Organizers of April’s Washington rally were able to estimate Jewish attendance by counting how many busloads of people came from Jewish organizations. Messinger told JTA she has no idea how many Jews will participate this time, but the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston is sending 10 buses to New York, and organizations such as the Progressive Jewish Alliance and Jewish Seminars for Social Justice have arranged local programming.

Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life is bringing more than 1,000 students from 30 campuses to the New York rally, said Michelle Lackie, director of Weinberg Tzedek Hillel, the organization’s social justice department.

She, too said there had been fears that student interest in Darfur would have waned because of growing concern for Israel. But she said Hillel sees Darfur as a different way to get Jewish students involved in a Jewish cause.

“It’s a Jewish imperative that you shall pursue” justice, she said. Darfur “attracts students who might not be interested in Israel or in coming to Friday night services, but who are interested in social justice. This has an appeal because they have a voice.”



## Gay pride conflict escalates

“We are demanding that the police protect our freedom of speech and right of assembly, and not submit to violent threats,” said Noa Sattath, incoming executive director of Jerusalem Open House, a center for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people that is trying to organize the march.

Organizers said they postponed the parade in August due to Israel’s war with Hezbollah and following police warnings that they might not be able to ensure safety at the march.

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## MIDDLE EAST

### Israel weighs releasing Hamas politicians

Israel is considering releasing 21 detained Hamas officials. The Ofer Military Court ruled Tuesday that the 21 detainees, all of them Palestinian Authority ministers or lawmakers, be freed on bail.

Implementation was deferred until Thursday to allow prosecutors to file appeals.

The officials were detained in a dragnet after Palestinian gunmen from the Gaza Strip killed two Israeli soldiers and abducted a third in a June 25 border raid.

### Soldier killed in Gaza

Palestinian gunmen killed an Israeli soldier in the Gaza Strip. The soldier died Tuesday during an incursion over the Kissufim border crossing when his unit came under fire. The Popular Resistance Committees, a Palestinian faction, claimed responsibility.

It was Israel's first combat fatality in Gaza since tanks and troops re-entered the territory in June following the abduction of a soldier by Palestinian gunmen.

### Hezbollah: No talks yet on hostages

Hezbollah said mediation has not yet begun over the return of two Israeli soldiers it's holding hostage.

"We heard through the media that the U.N. secretary-general appointed a person for the prisoner negotiations, but nothing has begun yet in practice," Sheik Naim Kassem, the Lebanese militia's deputy chief, told Reuters on Tuesday.

### Settler rabbi arrested

Israeli police arrested a West Bank rabbi suspected of political incitement.

The Yitzhar resident was taken into custody Tuesday after he didn't respond to a police summons for questioning.

His name was not immediately issued. Yitzhar is considered a hotbed of far-right politics.

### Syria: U.S.-Israel relationship fuels terrorism

The U.S.-Israel relationship helped fuel the attack on the U.S. embassy in Damascus, Syrian officials in Washington said.

"It is regrettable that U.S. policies in the Middle East have fueled extremism, terrorism and anti-U.S. sentiment," a statement issued Tuesday from the embassy said.

"What has happened recently in Lebanon, the Palestinian territories and Iraq is exacerbating the fight against global terrorism." Four gunmen and a Syrian security official were killed in the shooting attack Tuesday.

### Israeli schools fail

The Israeli school system ranks among the worst in the developed world in several categories, a new study found.

"Education at a Glance 2006," published by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, found that Israeli teachers earn the fourth-lowest salaries, Israeli classrooms are among the most crowded and the average number of years Israeli schoolchildren go to school is among the lowest of the 32 OECD member and partner states surveyed between 1995 and 2004.

## NORTH AMERICA

### Feingold to Bush: Drop 'Islamic fascism'

A U.S. senator called on President Bush to stop using the term "Islamic fascism," saying it harmed the war on terrorism. "We must

avoid using misleading and offensive terms that link Islam to those who subvert this great religion or who distort its teachings to justify terrorist activity," Sen. Russell Feingold (D-Wis.), who is Jewish and bidding for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2008, said Tuesday to applause from an Arab American Institute delegation.

Bush has used the term to describe competing threats from Sunni terrorists like Al-Qaida and Shi'ite terrorists like Hezbollah.

### Finalists for best recent Jewish novel named

The public may vote on finalists for the best Jewish fiction of the past decade.

The voting, at [www.jbooks.com](http://www.jbooks.com), will decide among "Ravelstein" by Saul Bellow, "Everything Is Illuminated" by Jonathan Safran Foer, "In the Image" by Dara Horn, "The Puttermesser Papers" by Cynthia Ozick, "The Plot Against America" by Philip Roth and "The Wedding Jester" by Steve Stern.

The winner, as well as the other winners of this year's Koret Jewish Book Awards, will be announced Nov. 15 in San Francisco.

The Koret awards are managed by Jewish Family & Life in cooperation with the National Foundation for Jewish Culture.

## WORLD

### Arab art in Australia skewers Olmert

The Jewish community of Sydney, Australia, expressed outrage over an Arab artist's exhibit that includes a painting of Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert with a skewer through his head.

The Sydney Morning Herald reported that Habib Zeitouneh, born in Lebanon and based in South Korea, defended his work as satire.

Vic Alhadeff of the New South Wales Board of Jewish Deputies said the work is "beyond the realm of acceptable political comment."

The exhibit, on display in a Sydney gallery, is billed as a response by Arab artists to the Israel-Hezbollah war.

### Sarkozy: Set up nuclear fuel 'bank'

Nuclear nations should create a "bank" of nuclear fuel for peaceful purposes as a way of persuading Iran not to develop nuclear weapons, France's interior minister said. Nicolas Sarkozy, who is running for president next year, said the prospect of an Iran with nuclear weapons was unacceptable.

"Through its support for Hezbollah and through its president's unacceptable remarks on the Holocaust and the existence of Israel, the Iranian regime has made itself an outlaw nation," Sarkozy, who has Jewish ancestry, told the French-American Foundation during a state visit Tuesday.

Sarkozy met with Jewish leaders for about an hour Monday in New York. Rabbi Israel Singer, chairman of the World Jewish Congress' policy council, added that Sarkozy "made statements that could have been made by the head of any Jewish organization anywhere, they were that strong."

### Blair heckled on Israel

British Prime Minister Tony Blair was heckled when he spoke of the war on terrorism at a union conference Tuesday. Blair was met with cries of "get the troops out" and "what about Israel" as he spoke of opposing terrorism everywhere.

Blair was visibly flustered by the uproar as he addressed delegates at the annual conference of the Trades Union Congress, an umbrella group for unions in Britain representing about 7.5 million workers. Rail, Maritime and Transport Union delegates, who are no longer affiliated with the Labor Party, were mainly responsible for the posters, heckling and jeering.