

IN THE NEWS
Israeli doctors held over human experiments

Four Israeli doctors were detained over alleged human experimentation.

The doctors, who hold senior positions in Kaplan Hospital in Rehovot and Hartzfeld Geriatric Hospital in Gedera, were arrested Monday on suspicion of illegally experimenting on humans.

Dr. Shmuel Levi and Dr. Nadia Kaganski were remanded for three days by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court. Dr. Alona Smirnov was released to house arrest for five days, and the fourth suspect was released. According to an investigation by the Health Ministry and exposed by Ha'aretz, the hospitals conducted illegal and unethical testing on thousands of elderly patients between 2000-2003, resulting in at least one death.

Israeli prosecutor gets Katsav file

Israeli police gave the state attorney information on the investigation into President Moshe Katsav.

The data, given Monday to Eran Shendar, did not offer a recommendation as to whether to indict Katsav. The police probe included allegations of sexual misconduct by Katsav against former employees, irregularities in granting pardons and wiretapping. The president has denied the charges.

Sukkot record at Western Wall

A record number of Jews turned out for Sukkot services at Jerusalem's Western Wall.

An estimated 65,000 worshipers attended Monday's prayers at Judaism's most important site, which included the traditional blessing of the Cohanim, or high priests.

Rabbi Shmuel Rabinowitz, director of the Western Wall and Holy Places authority, described it as the largest turnout in a quarter-century.

WORLD REPORT

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As North Korea tests nuke, Israel worries about precedent for Iran

By DAN BARON

JERUSALEM (JTA) — In Israel, many see North Korea's nuclear brinkmanship and the West's response to it as a dress rehearsal for a threat far closer to home.

Pyongyang's announcement Monday that it had conducted its first controlled atomic blast stirred worldwide concern. This was especially felt in a Jewish state fearing similar moves by arch-foe Iran in coming years.

"This is a worrying and troubling development," a senior Israeli diplomat said on condition of anonymity. "Now that North Korea has proven nuclear capabilities, it is liable to collaborate with Iran and accelerate the Iranian nuclear program."

That's hardly a groundless concern: North Korea is believed to have sold Iran ballistic missile technology for years. Once Pyongyang learns how to produce nuclear warheads, it could provide those to its Persian client as well.

"The North Korean regime remains one of the world's leading proliferators of missile technology, including transfers to Iran and Syria," President Bush said. "The transfer of nuclear weapons or material by North Korea to states or non-state entities would be considered a grave threat to the United States, and we would hold North Korea fully accountable of the consequences of such action."

Israel's Foreign Ministry issued a statement echoing international condemnation of the nuclear test.

"The test is an irresponsible and provocative act that could pose a serious threat to the regional stability of Northeast Asia and to global and international security," it said.

U.N. observers in New York worried that North Korea's test could embolden Iran, making Tehran less likely to comply with international efforts to curb its nuclear ambitions.

"Iran has obviously watched and learned some lessons here," said David Harris, executive director of the American Jewish Committee. "The ripple effects here are

really profound."

Among the lessons is that a policy of obfuscation and delay may buy enough time for Tehran to cross the nuclear threshold. Once that happens, Harris said, the strategic equation changes fundamentally.

"The underground testing is in many ways a threshold event, and its implications will be with us for years and decades," Harris said. "It's not one of those things that will come and go."

The Israeli government largely has been reticent about the need to curb Iran's nuclear ambitions, apparently out of reluctance to risk distracting from the U.S.-led effort to apply diplomatic pressure. But some Israeli politicians were more outspoken.

"Perhaps the case of North Korea will teach the international community a lesson in the case of Iran," Ephraim Sneh, a senior Labor Party lawmaker and retired army general, told Israel Radio. "We, the Israeli PR and policy apparatus, must take advantage of what happened to explain, and to

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BEHIND THE HEADLINES

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persuade the international community to do something before it's too late."

The senior Israeli diplomat said he would urge the West to impose tough sanctions on already impoverished North Korea, including, possibly, a sea embargo. Failing that, the diplomat said, the West should consider resorting to military force that would topple Kim Jong-Il's regime and neutralize its nuclear threat.

Yet with the U.S.-led military coalition already heavily committed in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the Bush administration deeply at odds with the European Union over the proper use of force, the Israeli diplomat's vision looked hard to realize.

For the time being, Western power brokers have been at pains to draw distinctions between the challenges posed by North Korea and Iran.

"Iran is a democracy, however odious parts of the regime may be. North Korea is a dictatorship led by a man who people don't know very much about," a British government source told Reuters.

Sneh suggested that the North Korean crisis could be a chance for the West to hone a get-tough approach that could then be applied to Iran.

"The European states eschew conflict, even political and diplomatic confrontations or an economic clash. They balk at clashing with Iran, and this is evident," he said. "And this is the time to show the world: Look what happens when you neglect your job." ■

JTA Staff Writer Ben Harris in New York contributed to this story.



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During dispute, Georgian Jews suffer

By LEV KRICHEVSKY

MOSCOW (JTA) — The Georgian community in Russia is suffering from the current diplomatic crisis between Russia and its home country.

That includes thousands of Georgian-born Jews who immigrated to Russia after the fall of communism and a civil war that ravaged their small state in the Caucasus.

"We are all victims of this conflict, both Georgians and Georgian Jews," said Jewish businessman Eduard Khazanishvili, a native of Georgia, a former Soviet republic, now living in Moscow.

He was speaking Tuesday at Moscow's Choral Synagogue, where the Georgian Jewish community maintains its own, separate congregation.

Earlier that day, Moscow announced a halt to all air and train links and postal contacts with Georgia — and severed trade and cultural relations between the two countries. Last week, Russia stopped issuing visas to Georgian citizens, and recalled its ambassador and evacuated most of its diplomats from the Georgian capital of Tbilisi. Some people fear these moves may presage a Russian military operation against the country of 4.7 million residents.

Russia's actions came despite Tbilisi's release early this week of four Russian officers arrested on suspicion of espionage.

Relations between Moscow and Tbilisi have been on the skids since pro-Western Mikhail Saakashvili became Georgia's president in early 2004. They deteriorated sharply after Georgia and NATO agreed to hold talks on closer relations, with a view toward Georgia joining the alliance. Russia strongly opposes such a move.

On Tuesday, law enforcement agents raided Georgian businesses in the city, closing a hotel and a casino owned by ethnic Georgians, and confiscating alcohol from a leading Moscow Georgian business.

Georgian Jews living in Moscow — the vast majority of them involved in various Georgian-owned businesses — have no doubt that the anti-Georgian campaign will affect them too.

"They will go after everyone whose last name ends with -shvili," said one Geor-

gian Jew in Moscow, referring to a typical Georgian surname ending shared by most Georgian-born Jews. "It won't make any difference whether you are Jewish or not," businessman Reuven Tzitziasvili said of the police raids targeting Georgians.

"They come to your home, office or stop you on the street, see your Georgian name and that's enough. We'll just pay more bribes," Tzitziasvili continued, referring to widespread corruption among Russian police.

A Georgian Jewish vendor at a Moscow market said Oct. 4 night that he wasn't sure his business would open the next morning.

"I might come tomorrow and see my store closed down," said the man, who gave his name as Yakov. "And there is nothing I can do about it."

There are an estimated 150,000 to 200,000 Georgians in Moscow

and about 500,000 in all of Russia, according to the Moscow Times.

Georgian Jews who used to travel frequently to their native country and have their Georgian relatives visit them in Russia fear their family members will suffer.

"I have two brothers in Georgia. I don't know how we can see each other now," Khazanishvili said.

The conflict will also hurt the living standards of many Jews in Georgia, especially the elderly.

Almost every Georgian in Russia has family in Georgia. Nearly all send regular financial help to those relatives. The money is usually carried by people traveling to Georgia, rather than wired through the banks.

"Everyone who works here sends money back to Georgia," said Tzitziasvili, adding that "\$150 or \$200 is a lot for Georgia. Now sending money may become very complicated."

A Georgian Jewish leader in Tbilisi said Jewish organizations in Georgia will suffer from Russia's curtailment of transportation links.

"There are various projects and conferences in Russia that we planned to participate in. Now we can't go there," said Maurice Krikheli, the head of the Hillel-Tbilisi Jewish Youth Foundation. ■

**We'll just pay
more bribes.**

Reuven Tzitziasvili
Georgian businessman

N.J. federations take lead in emergency response

By JACOB BERKMAN

NEW YORK (JTA) — New Jersey may become the first state to use its Jewish federation system to train citizens as emergency first responders.

State police and homeland security officials met with representatives from each of New Jersey's 12 federations Wednesday to discuss how they could offer community emergency response training, or CERT, to their employees and others in the Jewish community.

The federation trainee programs, and those who pass through them, would join a network of trained citizen emergency first responders run out of the federal Department of Homeland Security, which has some 2,500 training programs nationwide.

"The more people that we can train and organize to assist in a disaster or emergency, the better it would be for everyone in terms of homeland security," said Capt. Howard Butt, New Jersey's Citizen Corps coordinator, who attended Wednesday's meeting.

Other faith-based programs and communities in New Jersey offer the training, and the Jewish community is a natural to do so because "they're a com-

munity that is always concerned, and unfortunately is the target of terrorist activity," Butt said.

The New Jersey training would be offered for free through county offices of emergency management, according to Paul Goldenberg, national director of the Secure Community Network, the organization that facilitated the meeting. The group operates a communication network that keeps tabs on the secu-

rity of the Jewish community and helps Jewish organizations with security matters.

Goldenberg, who has been talking with representatives from the United Jewish Communities federation umbrella about getting the training into all of UJC's 155 federations, said the Jewish community needs to be prepared to respond to emergencies in the post-9/11 world, especially after a shooting this summer at the federation in Seattle.

The 20-hour emergency first responder curriculum has eight components, including personal preparedness for disaster, medical intervention, search-and-rescue training, spotting potential terrorist attacks and dealing with them if they occur, said Rachel Jacky, national CERT program director.

The citizen's brigade of trained responders is meant to assist professional emergency workers during times of crisis, ranging from a huge disaster — such as the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, when CERT trainees set up an absorption center in Texas — to an accidental drowning at a JCC.

Goldenberg's group hopes a partnership uniting New Jersey's Homeland Security office, the state's Citizen Corps and federations becomes a model for every state to follow with Jewish and other faith groups.

"We think it's a great idea to promote" citizen emergency responders "through any community network, faith group or

pre-existing network that already has credibility," Jacky said. "It's a smart way to build."

According to Goldenberg, the terrorism component of the training would be expanded for federations.

"It would teach receptionists how to spot suicide bombers, or training in how to recognize suspicious persons or countersurveillance," he said. "Unless people in the community know what to look for, they won't contact the police."

Goldenberg's organization also has been working with New Jersey State Police to provide the federations with emergency-response equipment and to designate a group of rabbis as "emergency clergy responders," allowing them to enter crisis scenes

that civilians cannot.

Some individual federations, such as the Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago, already offer the training and have established networks of citizens that respond in crisis.

The Chicago federation's program doesn't fall under the auspices of the state's Office of Homeland Security, as would those in New Jersey.

"It gives us a structure for how to respond when something happens," Chicago federation spokesman Joel Schatz said. "It gives us protocol for knowing who to call and what to do."

The meeting in New Jersey was just a precursor to actually implementing the statewide training, but those attending the meeting think it will happen.

"There is tremendous interest in moving ahead with this. I think we will come back and we will promote this idea," said Joel Kael, CEO of the Jewish Federation of Southern New Jersey. "We operate a preschool, have senior adult programs and everything in between. People expect us to take the proper precautions to maximize security, and anything that would give us this advance training would be beneficial."

FOCUS
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ISSUES

The curriculum includes personal preparedness for disaster, medical intervention, search-and-rescue training, spotting potential terrorist attacks.

THIS WEEK

TUESDAY

■ The American Enterprise Institute hosts women from Israel, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Libya, Tunisia, Iraq and Iran at a Washington conference to discuss "Women in the Middle East: The Beacon of Change."

WEDNESDAY

■ The American Jewish Committee holds its annual meeting in Washington.

■ The American Task Force on Palestine honors Palestinian Americans at its inaugural gala, in Washington. Speakers include Sen. John Sununu (R-N.H.), an Arab American, and Sen. Carl Levin (D-Mich.), a Jewish American.

FRIDAY

■ A group of liberal-leaning think tanks in Washington, comprising the New America Foundation, the Century Foundation and the International Crisis Group will launch a new report: "The Arab Israeli Conflict: To Reach a Lasting Peace."

NEWS IN BRIEF

NORTH AMERICA

U.N. Watch: Make rights a priority

A group that monitors the United Nations for anti-Israel bias called on the likely next secretary-general to emphasize human rights. Ban Ki-Moon's priorities "must include taking a firm stand against the continued atrocities in Darfur and other areas," U.N. Watch said in a statement Monday.

The Security Council has endorsed Ban, South Korea's foreign minister, as the next secretary-general, virtually guaranteeing his election by the General Assembly. U.N. Watch has sharply criticized the U.N. Human Rights Council and its predecessor, the U.N. Human Rights Commission, for focusing obsessively on Israel while ignoring human rights violations elsewhere.

U.N. Watch called on Ban to continue efforts by Kofi Annan, the current secretary-general, to confront the human rights bodies for picking on Israel. "We hope that Mr. Ban will continue Mr. Annan's tradition of brave and thoughtful critique of those groups and countries that seek to hijack the U.N.'s human rights mechanisms to advance their own biased political agenda," the statement said.

Barghouti prosecutor to think tank

A Washington think tank hired the Israeli counterterrorism prosecutor who jailed Marwan Barghouti.

Dvorah Chen started at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy on Oct. 5. Barghouti is a leader of Fatah, a relatively moderate Palestinian faction, but was also convicted of responsibility for some of the worst terrorist attacks during the recent intifada. He is currently serving multiple life sentences. Chen led Barghouti's prosecution in 2004.

At the Washington Institute, she will write and lecture on counterterrorism legal strategies.

WORLD

Nazi mass grave of disabled uncovered

The remains of more than 50 people, many of them children, were discovered in a mass grave in Germany, authorities say. Experts suspect the dead in the city of Menden were victims of the Nazis' so-called euthanasia program, in which disabled people were murdered. Two more sites are being searched for remains.

The discovery was made by workers from an agency that cares for wartime graves. Some skulls showed signs that the victims had Down syndrome or other handicaps.

The search for the mass grave followed eyewitness reports that bodies had been transported to the site from a nearby hospital run by Hitler's doctor, Karl Brandt, who was in charge of carrying out the euthanasia program. It's estimated that at least 100,000 handicapped people were murdered between fall 1939 and summer 1941.

Protests by German church leaders brought the euthanasia program publicly to an end, though some parts of the program continued until the end of the war.

Polish-Israeli youth program launched

A Polish-Israeli youth program was launched. The Poland-Israel Youth Exchange Program of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews was inaugurated Oct. 3. Eight Polish students were awarded scholarships to study from Oct. 15 for one semester at the Lowy School for Overseas Students at Tel Aviv University.

The students were chosen based on academic achievement, community involvement, commitment to Polish-Jewish dialogue and the exploration of Jewish history.

The goal of the program is to combat stereotypes in both coun-

tries, strengthen Polish-Jewish-Israeli ties and broaden knowledge of Jewish and Polish-Jewish history. The next stage of the program will involve Israeli students studying in Poland. The museum is set to open in 2009 in Warsaw.

Righteous Gentile is Nobel nominee

Polish President Lech Kaczynski nominated a Righteous Gentile for a Nobel Peace Prize. Ha'aretz reported that Irena Sandlar, 96, was a member of the Polish underground group Zegota, which was dedicated to saving Jews during the Holocaust.

In 1965, she was recognized by the Yad Vashem Martyrs and Heroes Remembrance Authority for smuggling Jewish children out of the Warsaw Ghetto.

The children were either adopted by Christian families or sent to convents, but Sandlar recorded their real names so that they could eventually be reunited with their Jewish families, according to Ha'aretz. She would become the first Righteous Gentile to receive the prize.

Ad campaign targets anti-Semitism

An international ad campaign will target anti-Semitism. The ads, produced by Russell Simmons, a hip-hop mogul who is co-leader of The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding, feature Simmons and rapper Jay-Z encouraging young people to fight anti-Semitism in their communities.

The ads will run in English, German, French, Spanish and Russian.

Ukraine acts against controversial school

Ukraine's government intensified its crackdown on a university known for promoting anti-Semitism.

The Ministry of Education and Sciences denied official recognition of 4,655 diplomas that were issued in 2006 to graduates of the school, known as MAUP.

The ministry based this decision on violations of the license agreement on the part of MAUP.

According to reports from Kiev, 30 regional MAUP offices are to be closed within the next few months.

In response, the MAUP leadership threatened to sue the government of Ukraine for "political persecution, inspired by Zionist forces."

MIDDLE EAST

Palestinian teen killed in strike

A Palestinian teenager was killed by Israeli shelling in the Gaza Strip.

The 14-year-old youth died and three other Palestinians were wounded Monday when Israeli artillery fired on Beit Hanoun, a northern Gaza town frequently used by terrorists for cross-border rocket salvos. Israeli military officials said the shelling targeted Palestinians who were spotted trying to retrieve a spent rocket launcher.

Israel opens pious maternity ward

An Israeli hospital unveiled a maternity ward designed for fervently Orthodox Jews. The five new delivery rooms at Jerusalem's Bikur Cholim Hospital feature a special partition which allows the birthing mother to see her husband sitting beside her, but not for him to see her, Ma'ariv reported Monday. This provision satisfies Orthodox requirements of modesty.

The rooms also have the options of stands for women's wigs and piped-in Chasidic music. According to the newspaper, the renovations cost Bikur Cholim some \$1.3 million, most of it donated. "The delivery rooms are the hospital's flagship," said hospital director Barry Bar-Tziyon.