



IN THE NEWS

E.U. admits failure on Iran

The European Union admitted that its talks with Iran on its nuclear program have failed. In a statement adopted Tuesday, E.U. foreign ministers said they had "no choice" but to refer the matter to the U.N. Security Council.

The ministers expressed concern that Iran has not halted its uranium enrichment efforts, considered a precursor for building a nuclear bomb, and again called on Iran to accept a diplomatic solution.

Woman eyes Israeli presidency

A former Israeli consul general in New York announced her bid to become the Jewish state's first female president.

Colette Avital, now a senior Labor Party member, said Tuesday she would like to succeed embattled President Moshe Katsav.

Israel's ceremonial president is chosen by a Knesset vote and serves for seven years.

Jewish man attacked in Australia

Police are investigating an attack on an Orthodox Jewish man in Australia.

Menachem Vorcheimer, 33, was walking with his children in a predominantly Jewish suburb of Melbourne on Saturday when a bus carrying members of a soccer team passed alongside.

Some of the passengers allegedly feigned shooting at Vorcheimer's family, cursed at him and yelled "Go to the Nazis" before grabbing his hat.

Vorcheimer confronted them, but the bus drove off as the players allegedly continued to hurl abuse at Vorcheimer and punched him in the face.

A driver who witnessed the incident pulled in front of the bus, while police were called.

The president of the Ocean Grove soccer team apologized for the attack.

WORLD REPORT

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Police call for rape charge shows Israeli attitude shift on harassment

By DINA KRAFT

TEL AVIV (JTA) — There wasn't even a term in Hebrew for sexual harassment before Israel's Knesset passed a law making it a criminal offense in 1999.

Soon after the law went into effect, the case of Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai went to trial, and his conviction in 2001 marked the first time in Israel that a political figure of major stature was convicted of sexual assault and harassment.

Experts say the case marked a change in the public's and the court's attitudes toward sexual crimes against women in Israel.

Now it's President Moshe Katsav topping Israel's headlines after police recommended he be charged with rape and sexual assault.

Katsav, who is at the tail end of a seven-year presidential term, has repeatedly denied the accusations and has told Israeli media that political foes orchestrated the complaints against him.

Attorney General Menachem Mazuz is expected to decide whether to indict Katsav in the next few weeks. If found guilty, Katsav could face up to 16 years in prison.

"What this shows is that the law is applicable for everyone. That is an important message, that even if you are the president of the state you can be brought to court," said Rachel Elior, who is chairwoman of the Hebrew University's Department of Jewish Thought and an adviser to the university president on gender issues. "No one can think they can get away with it, because it's a criminal offense."

After years when sexual innuendo often crossed the line into harassment and even assault — especially in institutions such as

government and the army — Israeli women seem to be speaking out more since the sexual harassment law went into effect.

The accuser no longer has to prove that force was used in the case of a rape accusation; for legal purposes, it's sufficient to prove full sexual intercourse without consent.

The Katsav scandal was soon followed by news this summer that Justice Minister Haim Ramon kissed a young soldier without her consent; his trial started Tuesday. The two cases have put the issue of sexual harassment at the center of discussion in Israel.

The Israeli rumor mill long has been full of gossip about senior politicians and army officers having affairs, but none ever was charged with a serious sex crime.

Dana Dror, legal adviser to the Israel Women's Network oversees a hotline where women can call for free legal advice.

In the months following the revelations against Katsav and Ramon, there has been a significant jump in the number of calls the hotline receives from women describing situations where they were sexually harassed, usually in the workplace, she said.

The image of women taking even the most powerful men to court has had an impact, Dror said.

"It shows a real social change, of which the law was the beginning. But it's a long process," she said.

Dror said recent comments by older male Israeli political figures, who have said they don't think Ramon should be prosecuted for a kiss, seem outdated.

"I think men today see things differently

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■ *The Katsav case illustrates a change in Israeli attitudes toward sexual harassment*

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and realize that they cannot speak or act as they once did. There is more awareness that a woman has her own dignity and cannot be treated as a sexual object," she said.

But Avigail Mor isn't convinced.

"There is an advancement in the way women view the issue but not nearly enough progress in the attitude of men," said Mor, a psychologist who heads the Women's Studies Department at Tel Chai College. She researches violence against women in Israel and public attitude toward it.

Mor said her research has not found a dramatic shift in social attitudes. Although the sexual harassment law has encouraged women to come forward in higher numbers, many of them when find the process a harrowing one when they do reach the courts, she said.

"Many women have such terrible experiences with the legal system. Sometimes they're accused of inviting the harassment and don't have the case brought to trial," she said.

"With Katsav or Ramon it's a different case because here the legal system has an interest in visibility, in tackling the questions. But when it comes to private citizens it's really still pretty terrible," Mor said.

Ariella Friedman, a psychology professor specializing in women and gender and who formerly taught at Tel Aviv University, said the fact that the Katsav and Ramon cases were propelled by the

system, not the lobbying of feminist organizations, is in itself a sign of dramatic change.

"I think that 10 years ago we would not have seen these cases come to public view. The women would not have had the support, and the consensus that this behavior is inappropriate would not have been there. Today the system is working to recognize that harassment is forbidden, that even if violence or force was not used it is still a serious matter," she said.

Friedman said the new legal framework has changed the playing field.

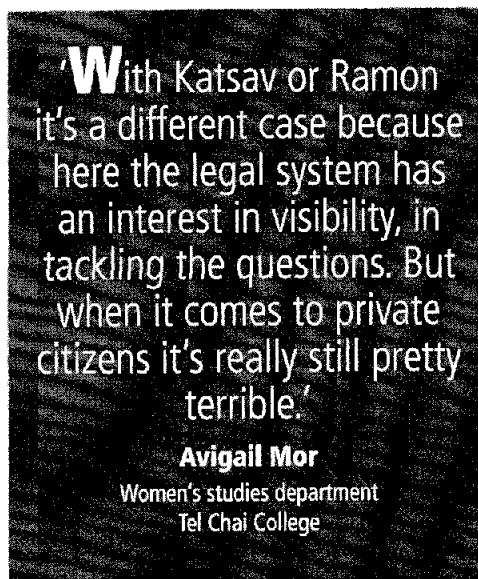
"There's a new attitude toward what's appropriate, whereas in past, if you were

the president or general, there was a sense that if such things happened it wasn't a big deal," she said.

Police have recommend to the attorney general that Katsav be tried on charges of raping two women, committing indecent acts by force, committing indecent acts without consent and sexual harassment.

Police say evidence also was found that Katsav listened to his staff's telephone conversations. According to press reports, police also have said that there's evidence he committed fraud and breach of trust,

harassed a witness and obstructed the course of justice, but the investigation continues and no recommendation on whether to indict on those charges has been made.



Anti-fascist battle in Britain marked

LONDON (JTA) — Londoners recently got a reminder that the power of ordinary people to halt racist behavior can never be overstated.

Oct. 4 was the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Cable Street, an event before the outbreak of World War II that saw 250,000 Londoners, including many Jews, stop a fascist march in the streets of London's Jewish East End.

A series of editorials, video presentations, art exhibitions and other events marking the anniversary culminated in a street fair on Cable Street Oct. 8.

By the mid-1930s, the British Union of Fascists, headed by the charismatic Sir Oswald Mosley and his "blackshirts," had made anti-Semitism a central part of their platform. Mosley's East London terror campaign swung into full force in the summer of 1936, carried out through endless street-corner meetings, firebombs, smashing of windows of Jewish shops and ethnically motivated verbal and physical abuse.

On Oct. 4, 1936, the blackshirts planned a government-sanctioned march through

London's Stepney neighborhood, which at the time had the largest Jewish population in England.

Despite petitions by local Jewish groups and residents, the Conservative government refused to ban the march, sparking protesters — a mix of Jews, local working class people, Communists and Irish dock workers — to take to the streets and stop the march with grass-roots action.

The chaos that ensued included clashes with police and confrontations by barricades on which protesters wrote, "They shall not pass!"

The resulting "siege," as it was dubbed by London papers, forced the union to abandon its march, and sent Mosley into disrepute.

The Battle of Cable Street is considered to have dealt a crushing blow to the fascist movement in Britain. Some historians argue to what extent Mosley's blackshirts would have succeeded in mobilizing a large-scale fascist movement, but nobody contests that the confrontation played a role in preventing fascism from gaining a real foothold in Britain.



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Day schools face leadership crunch

By JACOB BERKMAN

NEW YORK (JTA) — A dearth of leadership talent is affecting not only the likes of Yahoo! and Microsoft; it's also wreaking havoc on the Jewish day school system, as schools find it increasingly difficult to recruit and retain qualified heads.

Representatives from 11 Jewish educational organizations will meet next month at a "think tank" at the Conservative movement's Jewish Theological Seminary in New York with strategic planners and other Jewish and general education experts to look for solutions to what they describe as a crisis.

"As soon as you bring it up with those involved in Jewish education, it's like bringing up the topic of in-laws with a group of married people — there are a lot of nodding heads," said Nina Butler, an educational consultant at the Avi Chai Foundation. The foundation has a special focus on day school education, and is one of the think tank's organizers.

To some extent, the day school system has too many jobs for too few qualified applicants because it's the victim of its own success, said Rabbi Joshua Elkin, executive director of the Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education, or PEJE.

"This is basically a story about the phenomenally rapid growth of the day school system in North America," he said. "For the last couple of decades, the addition of new schools and the expansion of schools has put a tremendous demand on the Jewish community to supply leaders and teachers. The growth has outstripped the capacity."

There are roughly 800 North American day schools, and 60 new schools have opened since PEJE, a collaboration of major philanthropists to improve Jewish education, started in 1997, Elkin said. The number of children in day schools has increased by 100,000 since 1982 to more than 200,000 today, according to a 2003 Avi Chai census.

Frances Urman, director of the Day School Leadership Training Institute, founded by Avi Chai and run out of JTS, said her office has seen a "tremendous" influx of calls from schools across the country looking to fill their top spots. Her office runs a 14-month fellowship to train prospective day school leaders.

Marvin Schick, a senior advisor to the Avi Chai Foundation, said finding heads of school isn't the only issue; there's also the problem of keeping them.

Schick recently completed research for a study into Jewish day school leadership. He sent out 500 questionnaires to Jewish heads of school and got 400 responses.

The study looked at career path, salary, job responsibilities, career satisfaction and other areas. The data won't be ready for release for several months, but Schick said it shows that a "significant number" of Jewish heads of school are "new or fairly new" at their jobs.

Most started out as teachers without expecting to go into administrative work, he said, and one out of five continues to teach on top of other duties. Schick also found that job satisfaction is very high among heads of school, with 90 percent of those who returned the questionnaire reporting less than 1 percent job dissatisfaction.

Given those figures, Schick said it was "remarkable that there is so much movement in the field."

PEJE's Elkin said the average retention rate for heads of Jewish schools is three to six years, hardly enough time for an educator to leave a mark. For the schools to be successful, they have to figure out how to raise that rate to six to nine years, Elkin said.

When principals do switch jobs, it's often because they find better opportunities, advancement or a preferable location, said Schick, who noted that "very few were fired."

Some of the difficulty stems from the fact that schools are popping up in small Jewish communities, such as Kerry, N.C. and Asheville, N.C., said Marc Kramer, executive director of RAVSAK, an umbrella organization for the country's 90 Jewish community schools.

Getting qualified people to leave bigger Jewish communities in the Northeast is often a problem, and getting them to stay when a job in a larger city opens up is dif-

ficult, he said. But even five schools in Boston are looking for heads, Avi Chai's Urman said.

A head of school functions like a CEO, maintaining curriculum and serving as liaison among the school's board, faculty, parents and student body, while making sure that school finances are in check. Finding someone who is qualified to do all this — and who also has experience working at a Jewish school — is nearly impossible, Kramer said.

He added that about eight RAVSAK schools — about 10 percent of the schools in the system — look for new heads each year.

That's why Debra Altshul-Stark, president of the board of the Milwaukee Jewish Day School, considers her school very lucky to have found a qualified applicant

to take over as head of school this year. The founding headmaster of the 25-year-old school retired five years ago, and the school couldn't find a qualified re-

placement.

The board decided to try a three-headed approach. That flopped, as did a model of two heads of school.

When the board decided to go back to a single-head model, Stark was wary because the first search had been so disappointing. This time, however, 25 candidates applied; one had the general educational and Jewish educational background — and wanted to move to Milwaukee.

In any case, Elkin said the JTS think tank won't focus on griping about talent retention, because those involved already know the problem. Instead it will focus on finding a solution, because that's something that affects schools of all religious stripes, as evidenced by the participation of leaders of RAVSAK, the Conservative movement's Solomon Schechter Day School Association, the Association of Modern Orthodox Day Schools and Yeshiva High Schools, the Progressive Association of Reform Day Schools and even a few Chasidic schools.

"For those of us who work in the field, it's a perennial topic," Elkin said. "The common reality is that we have some catching up to do to meet demand."

FOCUS
ON
ISSUES

'The growth has
outstripped the capacity.'

Rabbi Joshua Elkin

Executive director, PEJE

NEWS IN BRIEF

MIDDLE EAST

U.N. naval force patrols Lebanese waters

An international force is in place to help the Lebanese navy prevent arms smuggling.

The UNIFIL Maritime Task Force is supposed to prevent arms from reaching Hezbollah in accordance with U.N. Security Council Resolution 1701, which called for a cease-fire between Israel and Lebanon.

The force is made up of 19 vessels from Bulgaria, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Norway, Sweden and Turkey.

The task force replaces an interim force that had temporarily monitored the coastline following this summer's Israel-Hezbollah war.

U.N. sees full Lebanon withdrawal soon

The United Nations said Israel would complete its Lebanon withdrawal soon.

Officials of UNIFIL, the recently strengthened observer force in former Hezbollah strongholds in southern Lebanon, said Tuesday that talks had been held with Israeli military commanders on the fate of Ghajar, a border village formerly split between the two countries but which was entirely taken over by Israel during the summer war.

Some Israeli troops remain in the northern part of Ghajar, the only such presence after Israeli forces withdrew from other areas of southern Lebanon on Oct. 1.

Israel has said it will not relinquish Ghajar until a new arrangement is reached to prevent Hezbollah from using the porous border to spy on Israel and smuggle drugs.

"I think we have more or less closed all the gaps except for a few minor technical issues that should be finalized very soon, and then I expect the Israeli Defense Forces to complete their withdrawal from South Lebanon," UNIFIL's acting commander, Brig. Gen. J.P. Nehra, said in a statement. Israel had no immediate comment.

Two killed in W. Bank clash

Israeli troops killed two Palestinians during a clash in the West Bank.

One of the fatalities in Tuesday's clash near Jenin, was a local member of Islamic Jihad.

Witnesses described the second dead Palestinian as a bystander.

The army said its troops opened fire in response to a Palestinian attack.

Israel to help NATO patrols

Israel agreed to help NATO counterterrorism patrols in the Mediterranean Sea.

Details of the pact have not been released, but the accord, agreed to Monday, is seen as a way to bolster ties between Israel and Arab nations with borders on the Mediterranean.

Israeli emigres urged to return

Israel's Immigration Ministry is trying to persuade citizens who moved abroad to return.

Immigration Minister Ze'ev Boim begins a tour of North America this week during which he'll meet with some of the estimated 420,000 former Israelis living there, Yediot Achronot reported Tuesday.

Boim will head a delegation charged with convincing the emigres, most of whom cited economic reasons for their move, that professional opportunities are increasing in Israel.

According to the report, returnees could be granted special tax breaks and customs benefits.

Google eyes second Israel center

Google is expanding operations in Israel. The leading Internet search engine announced Tuesday that it plans to open a research and development center in Tel Aviv next year.

The center will seek to build partnerships with Israeli universities and institutions, Google said in a statement.

The company already has an office in Haifa.

NORTH AMERICA

Holocaust council member Strochlitz dies

Sigmund Strochlitz, an Auschwitz survivor and champion of Holocaust remembrance, died at 89 after a long illness.

The Polish-born Strochlitz passed away Monday at his home in Connecticut.

A friend of Elie Wiesel, Strochlitz was a member of the council that launched the U.S. Holocaust Memorial.

He led efforts to have every state hold special commemorations for victims of the Holocaust. Wiesel is expected to deliver a eulogy at Strochlitz's funeral, scheduled for Wednesday.

"He was extremely sensitive to memory and remembrance. When the president appointed me" to the Holocaust Memorial commission in 1978, "he immediately became my right-hand man," Wiesel told The Day newspaper of New London, Conn.

Billionaire reinvests in Israeli firm

An American Jewish billionaire is boosting his investment in a company in northern Israel damaged during the recent Lebanon war.

Bill Davidson, CEO of U.S. manufacturer Guardian Industries, announced Tuesday that he had earmarked \$50 million for rebuilding the Phoenicia America-Israel Ltd. glass factory, a Guardian subsidiary located in Tzipori.

The investment is expected to boost Phoenicia's sales and staff size, and was described by officials as a testament to the Zionism of Davidson, who lives in the Detroit area.

Finance Minister Avraham Hirschson called it "proof of the stability of Israel's economy."

WORLD

British Jewish schools may have quota

Britain's House of Lords is debating a bill that would require faith-based schools to admit 25 percent of their pupils from outside the faith.

The Board of Deputies of British Jews has taken a strong stance against the quotas suggested in the bill, but Education Secretary Alan Johnson says the plan is an attempt to encourage different communities to integrate, curbing religious and racial tensions.

The amendment to the education bill would affect all new faith-based schools receiving public funds.

The Catholic Church, as well as Muslim, Sikh and Hindu groups, also oppose the bill.

The Church of England supports the bill and has committed to the proposed quotas.

Hungary honors Holocaust rescuer

Hungary honored a Red Cross representative for saving thousands of Hungarians, many of them Jews, at the end of World War II.

Officials dedicated a plaque at Pannonhalma Abbey to Swiss national Eduard Benedek Brunschweiler, who protected about 3,000 people at the abbey at the end from 1944-45.

He was expelled from Hungary when Soviet forces liberated the country. Brunschweiler died in 1987 at the age of 77.