

Israeli news

ISRAELI NEWS BRIEFS

U.S. to lead violence inquiry

JERUSALEM (JTA) - The agreement reached in Egypt calls for a U.S.-led committee to investigate the causes of the violence. The committee would include Israel and the Palestinian Authority, and it would share the information with the United Nations. But it will not be an international inquiry as the Palestinians had wanted.

No timetable for peace

JERUSALEM (JTA) - The Sharm el-Sheik agreement does not establish a timetable for a return to peace talks, but calls, as President Clinton said October 17,

for a "pathway back to negotiations" to reach a permanent-status agreement. The United States will consult with the parties within two weeks to decide how to move forward.

New clashes break out

JERUSALEM (JTA) - Clashes were reported October 17 in the West Bank and Gaza Strip after regional leaders agreed to a cease-fire at an emergency summit in Egypt. On the outskirts of Jerusalem, Palestinian militiamen shot at homes in a Jewish neighborhood, and Israel responded with machine-gun fire from tanks stationed in the area. One Israeli border policeman was

in critical condition after being shot, and one Israeli civilian was slightly injured as Israeli security forces evacuated residents from their homes. In Ramallah, scene of some of the worst violence in recent days, about 300 Palestinians marched to protest the summit's outcome.

Settlers kill one Palestinian

JERUSALEM (JTA) - Jewish settlers in Nablus shot dead a Palestinian and wounded three others as they picked olives near the West Bank city, witnesses told Reuters. The settlers reportedly said they fired the shots because the land belonged to them. The incident took place October 17 before regional leaders agreed at a summit in Egypt to end the violence that has killed at least 103 people, all but seven of them Arabs, since September 28.

Israel under attack at UN parley

JERUSALEM (JTA) - Speaking at a session of the UN Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, a Palestinian official charged that Israel is guilty of "military aggression on the Palestinian people and the deliberate killing of unarmed civilians and children." Israel's ambassador to Geneva, Ya'akov Levy, defended the nation's security forces, saying October 17 that they had "returned fire only when absolutely necessary." When the commission meets for a second day of sessions on October 18, Arab countries are expected to present a resolution condemning Israel for "crimes against humanity."

Report: Israel used excessive force

NEW YORK (JTA) - An Amnesty International mission found that Israel used excessive force in riots across Israel, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The human rights group on October 16 faulted the Israelis and Palestinians for failing to investigate the events.

Missing fighter's anniversary marked

JERUSALEM (JTA) - Israel marked the 14th anniversary since an Israeli pilot went missing after he bailed out of his fighter plane over Lebanon. The condition and whereabouts of Ron Arad have been unknown for more than a decade.

U.S. Jewish leaders fly to Israel

NEW YORK (JTA) - A solidarity mission of several dozen Jewish federation and organizational leaders was scheduled to travel to Israel on October 16. The two-day mission, organized by the United Jewish Communities and co-sponsored by the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, is slated to include meetings with Israeli Jewish and Arab leaders. Meanwhile, Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, plans to send its own mission on October 19.

Israel: Iran behind kidnapping

JERUSALEM (JTA) - Israeli officials accused Iran of orchestrating the Hezbollah kidnapping of an Israeli businessman and reserve officer. The abduction is part of "a worldwide campaign of terrorism orchestrated by Iran," Deputy Defence Minister Ephraim Sneh told CNN on October 15. Israeli officials identified the man as Elhanan Tannenbaum, 54, but denied Hezbollah claims that he is an Israeli agent. Israeli sources say Tannenbaum was abducted in Switzerland, but Swiss officials have not been able to confirm his disappearance.

Soldiers shot from Jordan

JERUSALEM (JTA) - Gunmen in Jordan shot and wounded two Israeli soldiers, according to a Jordanian official. The official added that a search is under way to find those responsible. The shots slightly wounded two Israeli border guards at Moshav B'tzael, a Jewish cooperative farm north of the West Bank town of Jericho. Shots across the Jordanian-Israeli border are rare.

U.S. legislators slam Arafat

WASHINGTON (JTA) - U.S. House members introduced a resolution two weeks ago condemning Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat for the recent violence in the Middle East and encouraging strong support for Israel. The resolution says the Palestinian leader did "too little for far too long" to control the clashes and actually encouraged the violence.



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