

Israeli news / **Around town**

News analysis:

Arrests of 2 Israeli Arabs raise questions of loyalty

By GIL SEDAN
UM-EL-FAHM, Israel (JTA) - The few people who braved the cold and the pouring rain found the doors to the Islamic Salvation Committee locked.



The late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin with Israeli Arabs at a Muslim celebration: Israeli Islamic movements links to movements in West Bank and Gaza Strip make Israelis suspicious. ISRANET photo.

Earlier that day, Suleiman Ahmad Agbariya, the national chairman of the self-described humanitarian group, had been arrested by Israeli officials on charges of having transferred more than \$3 million to the Hamas fundamentalist movement during the past four years.

His arrest, which came two weeks ago in the wake of the recent string of terrorist bombings in Israel, was part of an all-out war on Hamas that had been declared by the Peres government.

But unlike the crackdowns on Hamas carried out by Israeli and Palestinian security officials in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Agbariya, an Israeli citizen

who is an Arab, was arrested in the heart of the country. With a population of 35,000, Um-el-Fahm, located between Hadera and Afula, is the second largest Arab population center in Israel after Nazareth.

Agbariya also is deputy mayor of Um-el-Fahm, one of four Arab municipalities where the Islamic Move-

ment won local elections in 1993.

The movement, created years before Hamas, adheres to fundamentalist principles, but opposes the use of violence.

It gained a following among Israeli Arabs, particularly in economically depressed communities such as Um-el-Fahm, where the movement focused on providing social, educational and medical services.

Indeed, the Israeli Interior Ministry has conceded that the way the movement has administered the municipal affairs of Um-el-

Fahm and other towns was exemplary.

Still, the movement's links to Islamic movements in the Gaza Strip and West Bank have raised eyebrows among Israeli Jews.

In recent years, Islamic Movement leaders in Israel have helped to mediate disputes between Hamas and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

After scores of Israelis were killed in four separate suicide bombings, questions arose again about the relationship between Hamas and the Islamic Movement.

Agbariya's arrest two weeks ago came a day after Israeli security agents arrested another Israeli Arab, Said Suleimani, a resident of the village of Manshiya a-Zabda, near Haifa.

Suleimani is suspected of having smuggled from Gaza into Israel the suicide bomber who carried out the March 4 attack at Tel Aviv's Dizengoff Center.

Both arrests raised questions about how closely linked the Islamic Movement in Israel and Hamas are, and to what degree Hamas could find collaborators among Israeli Arabs.

Hamas military wing leaders seized by Palestinian security

JERUSALEM (JTA) - Israeli officials have welcomed reports that the Palestinian Authority arrested leading Hamas militants, but added that they would wait to see whether the crackdown was genuine. A Palestinian official said March 10 that Palestinian security forces had arrested three members of Izz a-Din al-Kassam, Hamas' military wing, including a man thought to be the terror brigade's commander, Abdel Fatah Satar.

The head of Palestinian security forces in the Gaza Strip, Maj. Gen. Abdel Razek Majaideh, said Satar, along with Salem Marouf and Kamal Khalifa, were arrested March 9 in Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip.

Majaideh described the three as important leaders of the Hamas military wing, which has claimed responsibility for four suicide bombings in Israel that claimed 58 victims and left more than 200 wounded.

In the wake of the attacks, Israeli officials called on Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to launch a severe crackdown on Hamas.

"Arafat has made a bit of a beginning, but we hope for more," Prime Minister Shimon Peres said in a speech March 10 in Tel Aviv. "I don't want to hand out grades," said Peres, who nonetheless applauded the arrests of the three Kassam leaders and of other "top Hamas people."

Hamas has warned in pamphlets that it will continue terror attacks against Israel.

On March 10, the Israel Defense Force announced that it would temporarily lift a blockade imposed two weeks ago on Arab towns and villages in the West Bank in the wake of the suicide bombings to allow Palestinians to move freely between the towns in order to stock up on food.

But a separate ban imposed on Palestinians entering Israel would remain in effect, the army added. Israel's Cabinet approved March 10 the entry of 16,500 additional foreign workers to take jobs in the construction and agriculture sectors that were filled by Palestinians from the territories before the latest closure was imposed.

Meanwhile, Palestinian sources could not confirm a report that Mohammed al-Deif, the most wanted Hamas militant, had also been arrested.

National news / **Around town**

Edmonton Jewish Federation forges historic link with Alberta Provincial Archives

EDMONTON - Len Dolgoy, president of the Edmonton Jewish Federation, and Uri Rosenzweig, federation vice-president for financial resource development, have announced that the Federation/Jewish Community Centre is in the process of forging an historic and unique agreement with the Provincial Archives of Alberta.



Shown discussing plans for the Jewish Federation/Jewish Community Centre Archives and Historical Committee are, from left: Dr. Sandra M. Thomson, director of the Provincial Archives of Alberta, Uri Rosenzweig, federation vice president for Financial Resource Development and chair of the Jewish Archives and Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta, and Claude Roberto, head of Private Manuscripts and Reference Services of the Provincial Archives of Alberta and head of its business management team. Photo courtesy Provincial Archives of Alberta - Dennis Hyduk.

Under this contractual agreement, Federation's newly-established Archives and Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta, chaired by Rosenzweig, will gather archival material from the Jewish community, sort, catalogue and store it at the Provincial Archives.

While a number of Jewish communities in Canada have had historical and archival groups operating within their communities or on a province-wide basis, it's believed that few, if any, have a similar "Permanent Loan" arrangement either with their city or provincial government archives.

The archival records to be gathered by the Edmonton Archives and Historical Society from individuals, organizations and institutions, will be stored in the Provincial Archives under a "Permanent Loan" agreement, a privilege and service rarely accorded. Under this contract, federation will own the material it acquires on behalf

of the Jewish community. This provision will allow the Federation Society to determine any future relocation of its collection, such as its own archives within the JCC or other facility; it will also allow the Federation Society to make the decisions regarding access to such documents.

The costs of storage under proper condition, disaster planning and insurance will be dealt with by the Provincial Archives, rather than Federation/JCC. In addition, a designated professional archivist, Dr. Claude Roberto, head of the Private Manuscripts and Reference Services of the Provincial Archives and head of its busi-

ness management team, will supervise and guide Federation/JCC volunteers of the historical society.

The master plan, as outlined by Uri Rosenzweig, will enable Federation/JCC to reach out to all segments of the community in a unified effort to gather and preserve personal papers, diaries, photographs, minute books, audio and video tapes, etc., much of which is now stored in homes, basements and institutional buildings. In addition, the Archives and Historical Society will engage in recording oral histories, so that the total Federation/JCC collection will be available for research, genealogical study, publishing the history of the Jewish community of Edmonton and northern Alberta as well as periodic exhibits.

Former Jewish residents of Edmonton and its surrounding area who may be interested in further information, providing information or turning over historical documents to the society should contact Uri Rosenzweig, chair, at 16413 89 Avenue, Unit K, Edmonton, Alberta, T5R 4S1.

Heritage Front leader in court again

By PAUL LUNGEN

TORONTO - Wearing chains and leg irons, Wolfgang Droege, the leader of the white supremacist Heritage Front (HF) was led into court several weeks ago to answer charges he violated a consent order against offering hateful messages on the telephone.

Droege was brought to court from the Toronto (Don) Jail, where he was serving a sentence for aggravated assault in a case that arose out of a wild downtown melee involv-

ing members of the Heritage Front and anti-racists. Droege, the Heritage Front and June French, the voice on the HF's answering machine, were alleged to have recorded a message which ran in February, 1995, accusing the Jewish community of vengeance by pulling old men out of retirement homes and off respirators to have them charged with war crimes.

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Between a rock and a hard place: Jews in Quebec on "Jewish Magazine", a new television programme

"Jewish Magazine" is a national Canadian television programme that focuses on Jews and the Canadian Jewish community. The programme will include the diverse opinions and interests that reflect this national community. "Jewish Magazine" is based on good solid journalism that will address the issues that Canadian Jews face in their daily lives, the producer promises in a news release. From Jewish education to Israeli security; from Jewish arts in Canada to Jews in professional sport; from kosher food to Jews and the constitution, "Jewish Magazine" is a relevant and dynamic series that brings Jewish issues to every Jewish household in Canada.

The "Jewish Magazine's" inaugural show takes on the difficult decisions that Jews face in the province of Quebec. Just a few months after a difficult referendum that ended in a controversial attack on "ethnics and money", the Jews of Quebec are assessing their future. Can they remain at home here? Will Quebec be a part of Canada? What can Quebec Jews do to fight for their rights as residents of Quebec for over 350 years?

Robert Libman, the former leader of the Equality Party in Quebec and a staunch fighter for the rights of all ethnic communities in Quebec will be the guest of "Jewish Magazine's" distinguished hosts, Ellie Tesher, a columnist with *The Toronto Star* and Morley Torgov, an award-winning author and humorist.

"Jewish Magazine" will also feature stories on the state-of-the-art Marvella Koffler Breast Centre at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto, a documentary profile of an exciting new singing sensation from Israel, and "a different seder", a Chassidic Passover tale narrated by Winnipeg's Rabbi Nathan Langer.

Watch for "Jewish Magazine's" premiere, broadcast on Vision TV (basic cable) on Wednesday, March 27, at 9:30 p.m. in Ontario, Quebec, and British Columbia; 8:30 p.m. in Manitoba; 10:30 p.m. in Alberta and the Maritimes; and 11:00 p.m. in Newfoundland, all local times.

Stephen Gardner, the show's producer in Toronto, said in an interview that the March 27 show is a "test pilot for the Canadian Jewish community," and he hopes to turn it into a series.

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