

Israel News

Faxx



Weekend
Edition

All the news the big guys missed. ISSN 1074-2255

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March 8, 2010--March 12, 2010 Vol. 18, No. 51W (2010_03-08-2010_03-12)

***Welcome to the
Israel News Faxx
Weekend Edition (March 8, 2010- March 12, 2010)
incorporating
news, features & opinion.***

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PA Terrorist: I'll Continue Armed Struggle: Abdullah Barghouti, an Arab terrorist serving 67 life sentences for 66 murders and assistance in the murder of Israeli citizens said Sunday at a court hearing that "after I will be freed from prison I will continue to fight for Palestine as long as it is occupied. Barghouti was brought to the court for a hearing regarding his continued separation from other prisoners. At the hearing's outset Barghouti announced that he does not recognize the Israeli court.

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E-mail: dcanaan(at)israelfaxx(dot)com Visit our free archival web site at www.israelfaxx.com March 8, 2010 Vol. 18, No. 47 (2010_03_08) Editor: Don Canaan, The Villages, FL 32159

Palestinian Authority to Honor Terrorist During Biden Visit

By IsraelNationalNews.com

The Palestinian Authority is going ahead with plans to honor the notorious female mass-murder terrorist Dalal Mughrabi during U.S. Vice-President Joe Biden's visit to the region. Biden begins a three-day visit to Israel Monday evening.

One of his top goals is said to be encouraging Israel and the PA to resume negotiations, albeit through intermediaries.

On Thursday morning, the last day of Biden's visit, PA officials will gather in Ramallah to dedicate a square in honor of Mughrabi. Thursday will also be the 32nd anniversary of the 1978 attack led by Mughrabi, which is commonly known as the Coastal Road Massacre.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has protested to U.S. officials over the PA's plan to honor Mughrabi. The Obama administration has not made a formal response.

The PA's plan to go ahead with the naming ceremony was publicized Sunday by Palestinian Media Watch, based on reports in official PA daily papers. According to PA media, the ceremony will take place under the auspices of PA Chairman Mahmoud Abbas.

Mughrabi and other terrorists infiltrated Israel in 1978 and went on a rampage, hijacking a bus and shooting dozens of civilians. The terror squad murdered a total of 37 people. Mughrabi was killed in a shootout.

The square in Mughrabi's honor will be known as "Shahida Dalal Mughrabi Square." The title "Shahid," martyr, is reserved in Islam for those who die while fulfilling a religious command and who are assured of a place in paradise after death. The PA has named several institutions after Mughrabi in the past, among them two high schools for girls and two summer camps.

Ahmadinejad Refers to September 11th as a 'Big Fabrication'

By Reuters

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Saturday called the September 11 attacks on the United States a "big fabrication" that was used to justify the U.S. war on terrorism the official IRNA news agency reported.

Ahmadinejad, who often rails against the West and Israel, made the comment in a meeting with Intelligence Ministry personnel. It came amid escalating tension in the long-running dispute between Iran and the West over Tehran's nuclear program, with the United States pushing for new U.N. sanctions against the major oil producer.

Ahmadinejad described the destruction of the twin towers in New York on September 11, 2001 as a "complicated intelligence scenario and act," IRNA reported. He added: "The September 11 incident was a big fabrication as a pretext for the campaign against terrorism and a prelude for staging an invasion against Afghanistan." He did not elaborate.

Nearly 3,000 people died in the hijacked airliner attacks on New York and Washington, which were carried out by al Qaeda operatives. In January, Ahmadinejad termed the September 11 attacks "suspicious" and accused the West of seeking to dominate the Middle East. Ahmadinejad, who has called for Israel to be wiped off the map,

was re-elected in a disputed presidential vote last June that stirred the largest display of internal unrest in the country since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Previously Ahmadinejad called the extermination of six million Jews during World War II "a myth," claiming that Jews have played up Nazi atrocities during the Holocaust in a bid to extort sympathy for Israel from European governments

He also attacked out against the capitalist system when he said "Today with blessings from the Almighty, the capitalist system, founded by the Zionists, has also reached an end."

Terrorism's New Target: Paralyze Western Economies with Econo-Jihad

By University of Haifa

Jihadist terror organizations have set economic terrorism as their new target, intending to harm and paralyze Western economies, the United States in particular, claims Prof. Gabriel Weimann, an expert researcher of terrorism over the Internet at the University of Haifa.

Weimann monitored websites hosted by terrorist and terrorism-supporting organizations and concludes: "For the Jihadists, the present economic crisis signifies an ideal opportunity and platform to leverage an economic terrorist campaign."

In the course of a study that was carried out over a number of years, Weimann surveyed public and encoded websites run by Islamic terrorist organizations, forums, video clips, and practically all the information related to Islamic Jihad terrorism that is flowing through the network.

According to Weimann, the focus on economic terrorism was set in motion with the September 11 attack on the Twin Towers, when Osama bin Laden stated on the video tapes that he sent out that these attacks mostly damaged the United States' economic base and that these attacks, which cost \$500,000 to carry out, cost the U.S. \$500 billion.

Other publications by bin Laden himself and by other terrorist leaders show that they understand that Western and U.S. power lies in their economic strength and that the jihad movement should focus on damaging this power by employing various tactics, including: hitting international corporations directly; harming international corporations by means of 1.5 billion Muslims boycotting them, which would pressure the respective governments to adjust their policies; striking at resources that were "looted" from Muslim countries, such as oil-drilling companies in Iraq; assassinating key personalities in the global economy, most of whom they believe are Jews, and killing anyone who collaborates with these personalities.

Monitoring the Muslim terrorist-related information on the Internet, Weimann also revealed that the armed struggle against the U.S. in Iraq and Afghanistan is aimed at prolonging American expenditure on maintaining forces in these countries, and not necessarily at military defeat. The jihadists believe that this would help drain America's financial resources and eventually critically damage the American economy. Therefore, they aim to make the U.S. open as many military fronts around the world as possible.

Another result of this new focus on Econo-Jihad is an increasing jihadist interest in websites and online information on the American and Western economies, so as to glean an understanding of how these economies can be hit the hardest. Not only official websites are monitored: forums and e-mails of individual surfers are penetrated too.

"One might think that an Econo-Jihad is less violent, but this is not the case. Jihadist Internet monitoring alongside terrorist activity in the field, is evidence that the economic turn actually influences the terrorists' targets, which have included oil-drilling infrastructures, tourism, international economic institutions and more. Indeed, Islamic terrorism's future devices will focus on targets that will yield the most economic damage," Weimann concludes.

DNA Discovers Another Fragment of the Lost Tribes of Israel in Africa

By IsraelNationalNews.com

British scientists have confirmed with DNA testing that an African tribe in northern South Africa that claims Semitic origins is telling the truth.



The Lemba, whose oral traditions state that their ancestors were Jews, practice customs that are remarkably similar to those of the House of Israel. They keep one day of the week holy, bless the new moon, circumcise their boys, slaughter meat in a ritual manner, avoid eating food with blood and do not eat pork.

Some of the men wear yarmulkas (kippot), they strongly discourage marriage outside the tribe, and the custom of the tribe is to inscribe a Star of David on the gravestone of the deceased. None of these practices are common among the peoples of Zimbabwe or South Africa.

The Lemba are also divided into 12 tribes, and among the Buba, the priestly class, was found the exact same DNA element as among those Jews of the priestly class elsewhere around the world.

A number of genetic studies have confirmed the findings. Initial research in 1996 indicated that more than half of the Lemba Y chromosomes (the male chromosome) are Semitic in origin. That study was followed by another in 2000, that reported more specifically that a significant group of Lemba males carry the "Cohen [Kohen] modal haplotype" (CHM) on the Y chromosome, which indicates the Y-DNA Haplogroup J found among Jews and some other populations across the Middle East.

The Buba clan carried most of the CMH markers among the Lemba, similar to other Jewish groups around the world where the males of the priestly class, the Kohanim, carry the CHM marker. Lemba tradition states that it was the Buba clan that had a "leadership role in bringing the Lemba out of Israel" and into southern Africa.

The oral tradition handed down among the Yemenite Jews is similar, stating that after the expulsion following the destruction of the First Temple, the Levi'im (assistant priests) and Kohanim fled towards Yemen; the group then split, with some continuing on towards the south, in the direction of Africa.

The University of London's Prof. Tudor Parfitt, who spent six months living with the tribe, and 20 years researching their people, expressed his amazement in an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation.

"This was amazing," Parfitt said. "It looks as if the Jewish priesthood continued in the West by people called Cohen, and in the same way it was continued by the priestly clan of the Lemba. They have a common ancestor who geneticists say lived about 3,000 years ago somewhere in north Arabia, which is the time of Moses and Aaron, when the Jewish priesthood started."

The Lemba tradition states that their ancestors fled the Holy Land some 2,500 years ago, traveling first to "Sen'a" and then south to Africa. Their sacred prayer language is comprised of a mixture of Hebrew and Arabic.

The tribe, approximately 80,000 strong, lives in central Zimbabwe and the northern part of South Africa, and prizes above all its holiest object: the ngoma lungundu, "the drum that thunders." According to tribal leaders, it is this, a wooden replica of the Biblical Ark of the Covenant that connects the Lemba to their Jewish ancestry.

The oral traditions regarding the ngoma lungundu said it had been used in battles, and thus was rebuilt several times, possibly from original remnants, Parfitt explained. He added that the replica that recently went on display at the Harare museum, about 700 years old, is "the closest descendant of the Ark that we know of."

The Lemba people of today, however, are Christians and Muslims, although many define their ties to Judaism as their "culture." But, says Perez Hamandishe, a pastor and Member of Parliament, "Christianity is my religion, and Judaism is my culture."

World's Oldest Man is Israeli

By IsraelNationalNews.com

He has trouble seeing, but as one who has repeated the prayers for more than a century, he knows them by heart. David Pur, age 115, continues to learn Torah and to pray every day, now in the nursing home to where he moved just three months ago.



Pur will soon be visited by an envoy of the Guinness Book of World Records – an event much anticipated by the rest of his family. Three of his nine children are still alive, as are 18 grandchildren and 56 great-grandchildren, all of whom are waiting with excitement for the envoy to formalize his title.

"I have had plenty of time to memorize the biblical writings," he said. He prays every morning while standing next to Moshe, who has just turned 100, and who Pur says sometimes seems lost – but is guided by his older friend.

Born in 1895 in what was then Persia and today is Iran, Pur became an adviser to the Shah, who admired his mastery of languages, including Persian, Hebrew, Arabic, Aramaic and French. He later added Tagalog, a language spoken in the Philippines, while learning to care for Filipinos. He and his family made aliyah to Israel in 1948.

Pur still listens to the news of the day on radio and television, and discusses current events with his grandson, IDF Gen. Yoav Mordechai, who says, "We must be strong with the regime of the ayatollahs and not fear them." Pur's 70-year-old son Salim, who often accompanies him, comments that his father solves everything with a smile, and says wistfully, "I wish I could be like him."

The old man is known for his smiles and for laughing and joking with the various members of his large family, who visit him daily. "The main thing is not to lose your optimism," he said. "I, who buried the woman of my life 50 years ago, and six of my children – I understand that we must not let bitterness take hold of us."

He rejected a potential remarriage 10 years ago, when the 80-year-old doctor with whom he was close tried to suggest a new wife for him. Politely apologizing, Pur told his friend, "Sorry, no woman can replace my deceased wife."

For nearly 110 years he smoked, but he says the damage was minimized because he "never swallowed the smoke." At breakfast, he drinks a glass of brandy and eats nuts.

"It is best not to eat on [from on-the-street establishments]," he advises, "because who knows when they change the oil, and you could unknowingly swallow poison. I avoid meat and fried foods, and eat as many fruits and vegetables as possible."

A new study conducted by researchers at Ben Gurion University of the Negev, the medical clinic at the Nuclear Research Center in Dimona and Soroka Medical Center, has backed up what the world's oldest living man already knows.

The findings, published in the current issue of *Circulation*, the leading medical journal of the American Heart Association, revealed that weight loss achieved through a Mediterranean diet was able to reverse carotid atherosclerosis.



Rabbis Disagree on Whether Lox is Kosher: Jewish bagel lovers disagree with a ruling by ultra-Orthodox rabbis taking lox, or smoked salmon, off the kosher list. Chevra Mehadrin, a small group of ultra-Orthodox rabbis in Monsey, N.Y., said it added smoked salmon to the list of foods it does not believe should be considered kosher because the fish often contains anisakis, a small parasitic worm, the NY Post reported. The announcement drew the ire of several Orthodox rabbis in New York. "This issue has been resolved in Jewish law for hundreds of years already," said Rabbi Moshe Elefant of the Orthodox Union. "What is a bagel and cream cheese without the lox? It's nothing," said Mr. Bagel regular Josh Loberfeld, 29.

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Biden: Nuclear Iran Would Threaten U.S. as Well as Israel

By Ha'aretz, Reuters & IsraelNationalNews.com

The White House officially announced on Monday that indirect Israeli-Palestinian Authority talks will begin as U.S. Vice President Joe Biden arrived in Israel in summery weather and a political storm.

PA negotiator Saeb Erekat protested Israel's declaration that it will implement a years-old plan to build 112 residential units in the large city of Beitar Illit, located barely inside Judea and Samaria.

Erekat expressed his own suspicions by responding to the Israeli announcement of new homes in Beitar Illit with a threat to call off the indirect talks before they even began. "If the Israeli government wants to sabotage Mitchell's efforts by taking such steps, let's talk to Mitchell about maybe not doing this if the price is so high."

In a well-timed and planned schedule of diplomatic flurry, Biden touched down after the White House announcement, followed by a statement by Middle East envoy George Mitchell that he is returning to the region next week.

Biden, the most senior U.S. official to visit Israel since President Barack Obama took office in January 2009, is widely expected to caution his hosts not to attack Iran pre-emptively while world powers pursue fresh sanctions against Tehran.

In an interview with the Israeli newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth, Biden emphasized Washington's efforts to drum up greater international diplomatic pressure on the Iranians, as well as unilateral measures imposed by the U.S. Treasury.

Asked about the prospect of an Israeli attack, he said, "Though I cannot answer the hypothetical questions you raised about Iran, I can promise the Israeli people that we will confront, as allies, any security challenge it will face. A nuclear-armed Iran would constitute a threat not only to Israel - it would also constitute a threat to the United States."

Meanwhile, Defense Minister Ehud Barak has said that Iran does not pose an existential threat to Israel. "Iran isn't an existential threat to Israel at the moment, but it has the potential to develop into one, and we are working to prevent that," said Barak, speaking before the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

Biden, however, emphasized the Iranian threat and reiterated the United States' commitment to Israel. "[The Obama administration] gives Israel annual military aid worth \$3 billion. We revived defense consultations between the two countries, doubled our efforts to ensure Israel preserves its qualitative military edge in the region, expanded our joint exercises and cooperation on missile-defense systems."

Israel, which is believed to have the region's only atomic arsenal, bombed Iraq's nuclear reactor in 1981 and, in 2007, launched a similar sortie against Syria.

Those tactical challenges, and U.S. reluctance to see a new regional war, has led some analysts to predict Israel will eventually come round to a strategy of "containing" Iran - which denies its controversial uranium enrichment is for bombs.

Biden, who departs Israel on Thursday, was not expected to take part in indirect Israeli-Palestinian talks that would be spearheaded by Obama's special envoy, George Mitchell, and could be announced during his visit, although he will be briefed on them. U.S.-Israeli tensions flared over Obama's early push for a complete freeze on settlement construction in the West Bank.

Obama has since embraced a more limited, 10-month moratorium on new building announced by Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu in November.

Obama's has been trying to reach out to the Muslim world, a priority he highlighted with high-profile visits to Egypt and Saudi Arabia, and, later this month, to Indonesia.

"We certainly believe that when the United States effectively builds bridges with Muslim communities, this allows us to promote our interests, including interests that Israel benefits from," Biden told Yedioth.

"The construction freeze was a unilateral decision by the Israeli government, and it is not part of an agreement with the American administration or with the Palestinians," he said. "It is not everything that we wanted, but it is an important action that has significant impact on the ground."

Biden's meetings in Jerusalem begin Tuesday morning, when he will meet with President Shimon Peres at the President's Residence in Jerusalem. He will then continue on to the prime minister's Jerusalem residence to meet with Netanyahu and advisers. Following a private session, the two leaders will hold a joint press conference.

Biden will address the Israeli public at Tel Aviv University on Thursday, during which time he will discuss U.S.-Israel ties and Obama's vision for the peace process and dealing with the Iranian nuclear threat.

Bolton: Israel's Options – Attack Iran or Accept Nuclear Power

By IsraelNationalNews.com

Former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton warned Sunday that Israel has just two choices: a strike aimed at Iran's nuclear facilities, or a nuclear Iran. Bolton spoke with reporter Aaron Klein in a radio interview for Klein's new show on WABC.

"We know about the facilities... We know where they are," Bolton said of Iran's nuclear program. "I think they are susceptible to an Israeli attack." The United States will not take action in time to stop Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons, the former ambassador warned.

Israel has limited time to plan its next steps, he said. "If Israel is going to use force, it needs to do it sooner rather than later," he told Klein.

An intelligence dossier revealed in a Der Spiegel expose in January warned that Iran would have nuclear weapons within the year.

Thousands of PA Arabs to Use Jerusalem-Modiin Highway

By IsraelNationalNews.com

The IDF's Central Command estimates that approximately 3,000 Palestinian Authority Arabs will drive along the Jerusalem-Modiin highway Route 443 each day when the road is opened to PA traffic this May. The estimate is much higher than earlier IDF estimates, which predicted that only a few hundred PA Arabs would use the road.

The higher estimate was made after the IDF Civil Administration presented more accurate data than was previously available.

The IDF is preparing to deal with the security ramifications of allowing PA Arabs to use the highway, as mandated by a recent Supreme Court ruling. The court ruled this past December that PA Arabs must be allowed to use the highway despite terrorism fears, and despite the fact that a parallel road was built alongside much of the highway exclusively for PA Arab travel.

The ruling aroused opposition among Israelis who regularly use the highway, including many Jerusalem residents who use the road to get to their jobs in the Tel Aviv area. Highway 443 is set to open to PA traffic in May despite ongoing terrorist attacks on Israeli motorists along the road.

Prof. Netanyahu, 100: Iran Trying to Split U.S. Jews, Israel

By IsraelNationalNews.com

The Netanyahu clan, the Likud elite and leading political figures including President Shimon Peres gathered at a closed event in Jerusalem on Sunday to honor Prof. Ben-Tzion Netanyahu, the Prime Minister's father, on his 100th birthday. In typical non-sentimental fashion, Prof. Netanyahu used the occasion at the Menachem Begin Heritage Center to deliver a stern, timely message of warning.

"From the Iranian side we hear the promise that in a short while – in a matter of days – an end will be put to the Zionist movement and there will be no more Zionists in the world," he told the gathering. "One is supposed to conclude from this that the Jews of the Land of Israel will be annihilated, while the Jews of America, whose leaders refused to join the pressure on Iran, are being told in a hinted way that the annihilation of the Jews will not include them.."

"On the other hand, the Jewish people is making its position clear, and trusting its great military might. The Nation of Israel is showing the world today how a nation should behave when it stands before an existential threat: to look the danger in the eye; to weigh in a calm and collected fashion what should be done and what can be done; and to be ready to enter the fray at the moment the chances of success appear reasonable."

Prof. Netanyahu concluded: "We must have the ability to stand firm mentally, which requires the presence of great powers of spirit. The People of Israel is showing the world today that it possesses such powers of spirit, and this is where my faith resides: an unqualified faith that our nation will fend off the danger that threatens its existence."

Prof. Netanyahu was never as famous or directly influential as his two elder sons – the illustrious Lt. Col. Yoni Netanyahu, who commanded the elite IDF forces in the 1976 Entebbe Raid in which he met his death, and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu – but at the event Sunday, it was clear that their accomplishments were in large part a result of the upbringing they received. The image that emerged of Prof. Netanyahu was that of a man of great power of intellect and character, as well as the courage to stand up for what he believed in when it was not popular.

In one of the evening's many amusing moments, Prime Minister Netanyahu used his speech to dispel what he said was a false media account of his childhood home as being ruled by 'Prussian-style' discipline. Rather, he said, when his father entertained important guests in the front part of the house, he and his brothers used to host boys from the entire neighborhood in their room in the back of the house.

They would close the door, place a towel in the crack between it and the floor, turn off the lights – and proceed to engage in wild pillow-fights. When things got too loud, his mother Tzila would knock on the door and ask to keep the volume down, but the pillow fight went on.

Prof. Netanyahu has been vocally critical of his son Binyamin when he deemed that he had veered off the proper Zionist path. He was extremely critical of his son's agreement to transfer part of Hebron to Arab hands in the 1996 Wye Accords, and signed a petition that called the 2005 Gaza Disengagement – for which his son voted in the Knesset, though later opposed – "a crime against humanity."

Ben-Gurion University Opens YouTube Channel

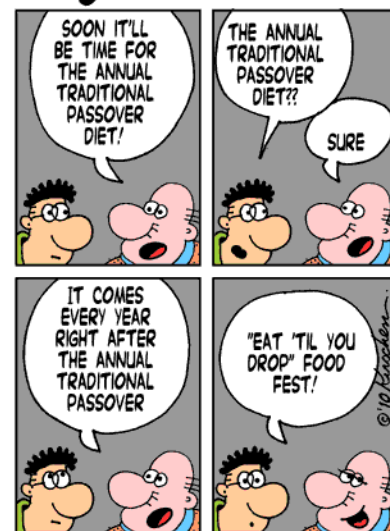
By IsraelNationalNews.com

Ben-Gurion University in Beersheva has created its own channel on YouTube. The channel allows the school to share practical information with its own students and faculty, and to provide educational material to the general public. (Israel News Faxx editor Don Canaan worked in BG's photography and TV production departments during the mid-1970s.)

While most of the content is in Hebrew, the university has posted several videos in English as well. The videos provided so far vary greatly in length. Some are short clips advertising the school or notifying students of an upcoming event, while others document academic conferences that are several hours long.

The university joins several others in Israel and around the world that have begun providing free content online. Several schools, among them the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), have even uploaded videotapes of entire courses to the Internet, allowing free access to educational materials for people worldwide.

Dry Bones COMING SOON



Courtesy of Yaakov Kirschen www.drybonesblog.com

Israel News
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Barak: Israel Must Keep Finger Close to Trigger: Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak (Labor) addressed the Iranian nuclear threat on Tuesday morning, saying "The State of Israel is the strongest country in the region. However, we must recognize opportunities and not be confused by challenges... We must trust ourselves first and foremost – with our feet on the ground and our eyes to the sky. One hand looks to make peace deals and the other hand with a finger close to the trigger, prepared to defend."

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Biden Promises 'Total' U.S. Commitment to Israel's Security

By Luis Ramirez (VOA-Jerusalem)

Vice President Joe Biden is in Israel and has urged Israeli leaders to take bold steps for peace. The Vice President is on a five-day visit to the Middle East to push peace efforts, and offer reassurances to Israel. Joe Biden arrived in Israel just after Palestinians and Israelis agreed to hold indirect talks for four months, ending a 14-month breakdown of negotiations.



Biden, the highest-ranking member of the Obama administration to visit Israel, called the resumption of talks a moment of real opportunity for peace. Speaking to reporters after meeting with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu on Tuesday, the Vice President said the U.S.-mediated talks will be a vehicle to allay the mistrust between Israelis and Palestinians that has built up over several years.

"The goal is obviously to resolve the final status issues and to achieve a two-state solution with Israel and Palestine living side-by-side in peace and security," Biden said. "And historic peace is going to require both parties to make some historically bold commitments."

Israel's first priority for this visit is to ensure continued U.S. support in efforts to contain Iran and its nuclear ambitions.

Netanyahu praised Washington's moves to stop Iran from developing nuclear weapons that Tehran could one day use against the Jewish State. "I very much appreciate the efforts of President Obama and the American government to lead the international community to place tough sanctions on Iran. The stronger those sanctions are, the more likely it will be that the Iranian regime will have to choose between advancing its nuclear program and advancing the future of its own permanence."

Many Israelis believe Obama is less sympathetic to Israel than his predecessors, as evidenced by his administration's strong demands for Israel to cease the expansion of its settlements in the administered West Bank.

Biden reassured Netanyahu, who is known to many Israelis as "Bibi," that bonds remain strong. "A cornerstone of the relationship is our absolute total, unvarnished commitment to Israel's security. Bibi, you heard me say before: progress occurs in the Middle East when everyone knows there is simply no space between the United States and Israel. There is no space between the United States and Israel when it comes to Israel's security."

Boy Scouts' Founder 'Held Talks with the Nazis'

By AFP

Scouting founder Lord Robert Baden-Powell was invited to meet Adolf Hitler after friendly talks with the Hitler Youth about forming closer ties, secret British files released on Monday showed.

Britain's Baden-Powell, who started the Scouts in 1907, held talks with German ambassador Joachim von Ribbentrop and Hitler Youth chief of staff Hartmann Lauterbacher on Nov. 19, 1937.

Lauterbacher, then 28, was in Britain to foster closer relations with the Boy Scout movement and Ribbentrop invited Baden-Powell to tea with the Hitler Youth leader, newly declassified MI5 Security Service files revealed.

A letter from Baden-Powell to Ribbentrop the day after the meeting showed how he felt about the talks. "I am grateful for the kind conversation you accorded me which opened my eyes to the feeling of your country towards Britain, which I may say reciprocates exactly the feeling which I have for Germany," Baden-Powell wrote.

"I sincerely hope that we shall be able, in the near future, to give expression to it through the youth on both sides, and I will at once consult my headquarters officers and see what suggestions they can put forward."

In a report on the meeting, Baden-Powell described Ribbentrop as "earnest" and "charming". He wrote: "I had a long talk with the ambassador, who was very insistent that the true peace between the two nations will depend on the youth being brought up on friendly terms together in forgetfulness of past differences.

"He sees in the Scout movement a very powerful agency for helping to bring this about if we can get into closer touch with the Jugend (Youth) movement in Germany. To help this he suggested that if possible we should send one or two men to meet their leaders in Germany and talk matters over and, especially, he would like me to go and see Hitler after I am back from Africa."

He went on: "I told him that I was fully in favor of anything that would bring about a better understanding between our nations, and hoped to have further talks with him when I return from Africa."

There is no evidence that Baden-Powell ever met Hitler.

Once the war had been under way for several years, the security services had no doubt about the nature of the Nazi youth wing. An October 1944 intelligence assessment warned that the organization should not be taken lightly and could not be compared to the Scouts.

It said: "It is a compulsory Nazi formation, which has consciously sought to breed hate, treachery and cruelty into the mind and soul of every German child. It is, in the true sense of the word, 'education for death'."

Some American Jews Sit Out the U.S. Recession in Israel

By Reuters

Fed up with the tough job market, some young American Jews are choosing to wait out the recession in Israel, where the government heavily subsidizes their stay while they intern, learn Hebrew or volunteer.

According to Masa, a group that organizes programs to Israel and is partially funded by the Israeli government, participation is up 50% since the fall of 2008. Today, Masa has more than 1,500 Americans working in Israel.

Masa's Aaron Goldberg said interest has been rising since the financial crisis, which gave them the idea for their "Israel: A Better Stimulus Plan" marketing campaign.

"Before the economic crisis, there wasn't that impetus to look beyond the traditional career path," said Goldberg, Masa's director of recruitment. "Now there are less jobs and less internships, so this becomes a great way to add something to your portfolio."

Jews are not the only ones seeking their fortune overseas. According to the Institute for International Education, the number of American students interning overseas has doubled since 2000 to more than 13,000 in 2008.

"In tougher times, people are taking a look at how they can develop themselves further," said Paul Lakind, president of The Global Intern, a company in Randolph, New Jersey that arranges internships in Israel, as well as England, China and Italy. Since its founding, Israel has sought to attract Jewish youth to ensure its survival as a Jewish state. But the recession has proven a good marketing tool.

Rachel Wolfson, 22, graduated last May with a degree in government and English but the Dallas resident could only find work selling shoes. To save money, Wolfson moved back in with her parents, but quickly grew frustrated. "I feel like an undergraduate degree doesn't mean as much as it used to," she said. "And with the economy the way it is, I just decided to leave America."

Through Masa, Wolfson will intern for the political party New Movement-Meretz. The internship is unpaid, but Wolfson hopes the experience will improve her resume. Her internship costs about \$9,000, including air fare, room and board for five months. Masa gives her a \$3,000 grant and suggested she have \$300-\$500 a month for personal expenses.

Unemployment is up in Israel, but the country was spared the economic beating America and many other rich countries took. High-tech and biotech, Israel's top industries, are booming and many global firms now have a presence there, driving demand for college-educated English speakers.

Although Masa's programs mostly focus on helping Jews get reacquainted with Israel, other programs are open to non-Jews, especially those between 20-30 years of age. Most programs are short-term, meant to immerse young adults in a foreign culture while boosting their professional skills. But some participants have decided to stay on after their internships ended, after receiving job offers.

Elliot Lazarus, a 30-year-old architect from Long Island will soon be relocating to Jerusalem with his wife and 5-year-old son, after spending last fall interning at two Jerusalem architectural firms. When he was initially laid off in December 2008, Lazarus was in despair. But with time, he came to think of his job loss as a new beginning. "Most people can't just walk away from a six figure salary," he said. "I had to be shaken out of my comfort zone."

Unlike most participants, Lazarus is an orthodox Jew who long had a desire to live in Israel. He said it took the economic crisis to push him over the edge. On his blog "Recessioning in Jerusalem" (recessioninginjerusalem.blogspot.com), he ruminates about his decision and more everyday pursuits, like haggling over the price of a haircut or jogging through the Old City at dusk.

For some, the appeal of Israel is religious. For others it's practical: life is cheaper there. But overwhelmingly, participants say they are surprised by Israel's work culture, which encourages flexibility and a better life-work balance.

"It was never a problem to ask my boss if I could come in late or leave early," recalls 27-year-old Rachael Freedman who interned at a Tel Aviv architecture firm after losing her job in 2008. "It's definitely more relaxed."

Since returning, Freedman has been hired back by her old firm, but Israel also left an indelible mark on her. "I think about it every day," said Freedman, who considers herself a secular Jew. "I wake up thinking of Israel, at work I think about it, and hope to be there in the nearer future. There is just something about it that feels like home."

Ethiopian Jews Push Israel on Immigration Rights

By AFP

The final remnants of a community of Ethiopian Jews are asking Israel

to make good on a promise to allow them to immigrate. The so-called Falash Mura Jews accuse Israeli authorities of turning a deaf ear to their immigration requests.



Their synagogue is a plastic tent with a dirt floor behind a wall in a busy Addis Ababa neighborhood. Their rituals and dress are strikingly similar to those of the local Christian community.

But members of this impoverished Jewish congregation claim to be direct descendants of Ethiopia's King Menelik I, who is believed to have been the son of Israel's King Solomon and the queen of Sheba.

Tens of thousands of Falash Mura were airlifted to Israel in two waves in the 1980s and '90s, after the Chief Rabbinate ruled they were historically Jews who had been forced to convert to Christianity. The Jewish state is currently home to an Ethiopian community of more than 100,000.

But at least 8,000 more say they are also eligible for Israeli citizenship. Twenty-five-year old Misganaw Yeshi was came to Addis Ababa 11 years ago from rural northern Ethiopia in hopes of joining relatives in Israel. He says the Israeli embassy has turned a deaf ear to his plea to be reunited with his family.

"We starting the process in Israel embassy. They interview us, I interview three times, in Israel embassy, but I didn't go in Israel. I don't know why. My mother, my brother, my sisters live in Israel," he said.

The leader of Addis Ababa's Falash Mura community, Sisay Berhan says many of those left behind are dying of tuberculosis and malnutrition. Several women in the congregation showed visiting foreign reporters photographs of loved ones who have died while waiting to be reunited with family members in Israel.

But the Falash Mura pose an awkward question for Israel. Public opinion is said to be divided between those who favor allowing them to immigrate, either because they were Jews by ancestry, or for humanitarian reasons, and others who argue they are simply claiming to be Jewish to escape Ethiopia's grinding poverty.

The Jerusalem Post Monday quoted Israel's Interior Minister Eli Yishai saying he would soon send a team to check the eligibility of 8,700 Falash Mura Jews. But the report said members of Israel's Ethiopian community had "voiced cynicism" at Yishai's promises.

The newspaper also reported some members of the Israeli Knesset had expressed frustration at the government's apparent intransigence on the Falash Mura issue. One lawmaker, Shlomo Molla, was quoted as saying, "it seems there is a clear policy not to bring more Jews from Ethiopia, and no one is willing to explain why."



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TheVillagesMorsel.com



Poll: National Team Athletes Must Serve in IDF: "Shlomit," Israel's largest national service organization, recently carried out a poll amongst the general public regarding who has the right to represent Israel abroad in sports competitions. The poll found that 69% of the public think that whoever represents Israel in international sports or on national teams must serve in the IDF as a pre-condition to representing the country.

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E-mail: dcanaan(at)israelfaxx(dot)com Visit our free archival web site at www.israelfaxx.com March 11, 2010 Vol. 18, No. 50 (2010_03_11) Editor: Don Canaan, The Villages, FL 32159

Israel Planning 50,000 Housing Units in East Jerusalem

By Ha'aretz

Some 50,000 new housing units in Jerusalem neighborhoods beyond the Green Line are in various stages of planning and approval, planning officials told Ha'aretz. They said Jerusalem's construction plans for the next few years, even decades, are expected to focus on East Jerusalem.

Most of the housing units will be built in predominantly Jewish neighborhoods beyond the Green Line, while a smaller number of them will be built in Arab neighborhoods. The plans for some 20,000 of the apartments are already in advanced stages of approval and implementation, while plans for the remainder have yet to be submitted to the planning committees.

The planned construction includes the 1,600 homes in the ultra-Orthodox East Jerusalem neighborhood of Ramat Shlomo that were approved Tuesday. Saying the decision undermines peace talks, Vice President Joe Biden has publicly condemned the move, which the Interior Ministry announced during his visit to Israel. Ministry officials said the announcement was not intended to coincide with Biden's visit.

If the East Jerusalem construction plans are implemented, they will make it impossible to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, said an activist of the left-wing Ir Amim non-governmental organization.

"The first, most explosive 'circle of construction' in East Jerusalem is in the Old City," said Orly Noy of Ir Amim, which says it seeks to promote Israeli-Palestinian relations in Jerusalem. "The second circle is the ideological settlements being built in the heart of Palestinian neighborhoods in the historic basin, and the third is expanding the existing neighborhoods in the east of the city."

Taken together, the East Jerusalem construction "will move Israel beyond the point of no return, as far as an agreed solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is concerned," she said.

Municipal planning officials said the only direction in which Jerusalem can grow is eastward. The municipality ruled out westward development after the controversial Safdie Plan - a massive construction project planned for the hills west of the capital - was axed three years ago under pressure from environmental groups.

Massive construction within Jerusalem's older neighborhoods was also scrapped, since it clashed with other considerations: keeping buildings low, preserving historic buildings and streets, and retaining quality of life.

The housing shortage in Jerusalem has become more acute in recent years, especially in ultra-Orthodox areas, pushing thousands of ultra-Orthodox families a year to the Haredi cities Betar Ilit and Modi'in Ilit, in the West Bank. The West Bank construction freeze has increased the pressure to create more housing in Jerusalem.

Arab League Chief: Palestinians Pull Out of Talks

By Reuters

Arab League chief Amr Moussa said on Wednesday that Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas told him he would not enter indirect talks with Israel. "The Palestinian president decided he will not enter into those negotiations now ... the Palestinian side is not ready to negotiate under the present circumstances," Moussa told a news conference following an urgent meeting of Arab delegates at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo.

The Arab League, which recently endorsed indirect talks between the Palestinians and Israel, convened on Wednesday an emergency session following Israel's decision to build new housing units in east Jerusalem.

The league's Arab peace initiative committee called on Arab foreign ministers to reconsider their support for the talks they extended on March 3. "In case of the failure to stop the Israeli measures immediately ... the committee concludes that the proposed talks are irrelevant," the committee's statement said.

Moussa cut short his visit to Qatar in order to attend the meeting. Syrian representative to the Arab League, Ambassador Yosef Ahamad said that Israel's decision justifies Damascus' objection to the renewal of negotiations with the Jewish State.

During a joint press conference with Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jabr al-Thani, Moussa said, "We will study Israel's position and formulate recommendations that will be presented to the ministers and later on to the Arab Summit slated to convene in Libya at the end of the month."

Abbas urged Israel to commit to the peace process and refrain from taking steps that might impede it. He had agreed to a proposal to resume the US-mediated negotiations after a 14-month hiatus due to the backing from Arab countries.

"The Palestinians remain committed to peace as a strategic choice on the basis of two states co-existing side by side according to the '67 borders, with Jerusalem as the capital of the Palestinian state," he said.

Knesset to Biden: Free Pollard as Gesture Toward Israel

By IsraelNationalNews.com

Uri Ariel, chairman of the Caucus for Jonathan Pollard in the Knesset and the heads of most Knesset factions directed a plea to Vice President Joe Biden to free Jonathan Pollard, a man convicted of spying for Israel who has become a people's hero in the Jewish State.

Pollard is currently serving his 25th year of a life sentence for passing classified information to Israel which was "vital to Israel's security," according to Pollard's website.

"We appeal to his honor with an emotional prayer from the depths of the heart," wrote the Knesset members, "to lead with kindness and mercy regarding Jonathan Pollard, who is ill, and to ... shorten his sentence as a humanitarian gesture to the Jewish people, prior to the Passover holiday, the Festival of Freedom."

Roman Catholic Church's Chief Exorcist: Devil is in the Vatican

By Times Online

Sex abuse scandals in the Roman Catholic Church are proof that "the Devil is at work inside the Vatican," according to the Holy See's chief exorcist.

The Rev. Gabriele Amorth, 85, who has been the Vatican's chief exorcist for 25 years and says he has dealt with 70,000 cases of demonic possession, said that the consequences of satanic

infiltration included power struggles at the Vatican as well as "cardinals who do not believe in Jesus, and bishops who are linked to the Demon."

He added: "When one speaks of 'the smoke of Satan' [a phrase coined by Pope Paul VI in 1972] in the holy rooms, it is all true – including these latest stories of violence and pedophilia."

He claimed that another example of satanic behavior was the Vatican "cover-up" over the deaths in 1998 of Alois Estermann, the then commander of the Swiss Guard, his wife and Cpl. Cedric Tornay, a Swiss Guard, who were all found shot dead. "They covered up everything immediately," he said. "Here one sees the rot".

A remarkably swift Vatican investigation concluded that Tornay had shot the commander and his wife and then turned his gun on himself after being passed over for a medal. However Tornay's relatives have challenged this. There have been unconfirmed reports of a homosexual background to the tragedy and the involvement of a fourth person who was never identified.

In the past he has suggested that Adolf Hitler and Joseph Stalin were possessed by the Devil.

Father Amorth, who has just published Memoirs of an Exorcist, a series of interviews with the Vatican journalist Marco Tosatti, said that the attempt on the life of Pope John Paul II in 1981 had been the work of the Devil, as had an incident last Christmas when a mentally disturbed woman threw herself at Pope Benedict XVI at the start of Midnight Mass, pulling him to the ground.

The Rev. José Antonio Fortea Cucurull, a Rome-based exorcist, said that Father Amorth had "gone well beyond the evidence" in claiming that Satan had infiltrated the Vatican corridors.

"Cardinals might be better or worse, but all have upright intentions and seek the glory of God," he said. Some Vatican officials were more pious than others, "but from there to affirm that some cardinals are members of satanic sects is an unacceptable distance."

Amorth told La Repubblica that the devil was "pure spirit, invisible. But he manifests himself with blasphemies and afflictions in the person he possesses. He can remain hidden, or speak in different languages, transform himself or appear to be agreeable. At times he makes fun of me."

He said it sometimes took six or seven of his assistants to to hold down a possessed person. Those possessed often yelled and screamed and spat out nails or pieces of glass, which he kept in a bag. "Anything can come out of their mouths – finger-length pieces of iron, but also rose petals."

He said that hoped every diocese would eventually have a resident exorcist. Under Church Canon Law any priest can perform exorcisms, but in practice they are carried out by a chosen few trained in the rites.

In the past he has suggested that Adolf Hitler and Joseph Stalin were possessed by the Devil. He was among Vatican officials who warned that J. K. Rowling's Harry Potter novels made a "false distinction between black and white magic".

He approves, however, of the 1973 film The Exorcist, which although "exaggerated" offered a "substantially exact" picture of possession.

In 2001 he objected to the introduction of a new version of the exorcism rite, complaining that it dropped centuries-old prayers and was "a blunt sword" about which exorcists themselves had not been consulted. The Vatican said later that he and other exorcists could continue to use the old ritual.

Israeli Officials Divided Over Mass Nude Photo Initiative

By YnetNews.com

A report published by Yedioth Ahronoth Monday regarding the possible arrival of American controversial photographer Spencer Tunick to Israel sparked both excitement and harsh objection in the Jewish state. Despite the assertion of relevant parties that the initiative is far from being finalized, fierce opposition has been voiced.

Tunick, who is internationally renowned for his mass nude photographs in public areas in major cities around the world has submitted a request to shoot in the Tel Aviv Port and on the Dead Sea beach. The Tel Aviv Municipality, who received the request, embraced the initiative and an element at the municipal spokesman's office said, "This is a wonderful way of telling the world about Tel Aviv and its modern and vibrant nature."



Getty Images

However, not everyone is equally as excited. Dov Litvinoff, head of the Tamar Regional Council which is adjacent to the Dead Sea said, "I categorically object to this project and have no intention of supporting it neither logistically nor in terms of budget." Litvinoff said that the initiative was a provocation which may offend many sectors in the Israeli society.

"I am a very liberal and open person but as a public official I don't think that the council which I head should invest in a project so controversial. After all, the Dead Sea belongs to everyone. A nude display of thousands of nudists does not promote the Dead Sea; it promotes the whim of someone who calls himself an artist."

Despite his fierce objection, Litvinoff said he does not intend on hindering the shoot, should Tunick decide to produce it independently. "I won't set up a barrier on Highway 90 to block his arrival or that of all those nudists. If they want they can come to one of the Dead Sea's open beaches."

The Tourism Ministry stated in response, "One has to bear in mind this is an artistic display. Minister Stas Misezhnikov welcomes the initiative for its great potential in improving Israel's image as an enlightened, safe, modern and liberal country. In allowing this, Israel will be joining a long line of respectable countries around the world where Tunick has shot in the past."

The statement noted that the photographer is slated to arrive in Israel in April in order to check out potential sites. "We believe that a solution will be found which will allow the implementation of the project while considering all sectors of society."



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U.S. Says Indirect Mideast Peace Talks are Still On

By David Gollust (VOA-State Department) & Luis Ramirez (VOA-Jerusalem)

The State Department said Thursday it believes indirect Israeli-Palestinian peace talks will still be held despite Arab anger over Israeli plans to build more housing in East Jerusalem. U.S. Middle East envoy George Mitchell is due in the region next week to seal plans for the so-called proximity talks.

Officials said Mitchell and Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Jeffrey Feltman are in phone contact with Israeli and Palestinian officials and key Arab governments in an effort to keep peace talks on track despite the controversial Israeli move.

Israel announced earlier this week it would build 1600 new housing units in East Jerusalem, which Palestinians want as the capital of their envisaged independent state.

The announcement angered visiting Vice President Joe Biden, and prompted press reports that the Palestinians would scrap a previous commitment to enter indirect peace talks to be brokered by Mitchell.

But in a talk with reporters in Washington, State Department Spokesman P.J. Crowley said the U.S. has not received notice from the Palestinians about pulling out of the proximity talks.

Crowley said the Israeli housing announcement was clearly counterproductive but that the angry political exchanges that have followed only underscore the need for the parties to get to negotiations that will resolve the underlying problem issues.

"It is in both the Israelis' and the Palestinians' interest to move forward in this process," said Crowley. "That is our key message. There are always going to be bumps in the road. But the only way to resolve these difficult issues is through discussions that lead to formal negotiations that lead to a peace agreement that addresses all of the key issues."

Crowley said Mitchell still plans to go to the region next week to arrange the indirect talks, in which he will presumably shuttle between Israeli officials in Jerusalem and Palestinians in the nearby West Bank town of Ramallah.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is to go to Moscow late next week for a meeting of the international Middle East Quartet, an informal grouping of the United States, Russia, the European Union and the United Nations, that has tried to advance peace efforts.

Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has expressed regret over the timing of the East Jerusalem housing announcement, which came shortly after Biden's arrival Tuesday, but has given no indication it would be rescinded. Israel said it did not intend to embarrass Biden, the highest-ranking Obama administration official to visit the region.

Biden ended a visit to Israel and the Palestinian territories, calling for both sides to resume negotiations, which the Palestinians say may not take place as a result of Israel's decision to approve more construction on disputed lands.

Biden told an audience at Tel Aviv University the United States remains deeply committed to Israel's security, saying the United States has no better friend than the Jewish state.

He said it is now in the best interest of Israelis to make a serious attempt to make peace with the Palestinians. "It is very hard to be a beacon for others, when you are constantly at war. To end this historic conflict, both sides must be historically bold, because if each waits stubbornly for the other to act first, this will go on and be waiting for an eternity."

In his speech, Biden's tone was conciliatory. "Some of you legitimately may have been surprised that such a strong supporter of Israel, for the last 37 years and beyond, but 37 years as an elected official, how I can speak out

so strongly, given the ties that I share as well as my country shares with Israel. But quite frankly, folks, sometimes only a friend can deliver the hardest truth," he said. Biden went on later to Amman, where Jordan's King Abdullah said such steps threaten the peace process and put the region at risk of a new cycle of conflict.

40 % Plus of Israeli Bar Mitzvahs are Celebrated at Western Wall

By IsraelNationalNews.com

More than 40% of Israeli families who had the choice celebrated their sons' Bar Mitzvah at the Western Wall in 2009, the Western Wall Legacy Foundation reports. Many families from abroad did the same.

Several years ago, the Foundation learned that awareness of the Western Wall (Kotel) had dropped to the point where a large majority of pupils in Israel's schools had never visited the site. In addition, though it had long been prevalent to celebrate Bar Mitzvahs at the Kotel, the situation was changing drastically. Many families either did not know how to run the ceremony on their own, or were daunted by reports of "Bar Mitzvah quacks" charging exorbitantly to run it for them.

The Foundation thereupon established its Bar Mitzvah program, free of charge and with maximum attention to the families' needs and concerns. "To our joy," says Rabbi Shmuel Rabinovitch, Rabbi of the Holy Sites, "the project has succeeded beyond our expectations – and the results indicate a re-connecting between Israeli families and the Western Wall."

"There is no place like the Kotel for a young man to internalize his newly-established link with the chain of Jewish generations and history. This is the time when he is ready to truly understand what it means to be a Jew – and this is the best place to mark that."

The program offers knowledge, step-by-step accompaniment, and technical information. The Bar Mitzvah boy is also presented with an attractive certificate marking the time and place of the occasion, and signed by Israel's Rabbi of the Holy Sites.

A Bar Mitzvah ceremony marks the coming of age of a Jewish boy, when he becomes obligated to fulfill the Torah's laws at age 13. Special programs are also available at the Wall for Bat Mitzvah girls.

Yad Vashem: We Must Complete List of Holocaust Victims

By IsraelNationalNews.com

Yad Vashem kicked off a new campaign in which it calls on the public to fill out forms to commemorate the names of Holocaust victims. In the framework of the campaign, Yad Vashem called on the public to participate using their website. According to the organization, less than four million names of Jews who perished in the Holocaust have been collected thus far.

Cynthia Wroclawski, project manager, says it's time to collect the names of all the victims. "Yad Vashem provides a memorial for Holocaust victims by name, and we strive to reach all the victims' names and to get as much of their information as possible. Today, there are more than three million names, which means we are missing millions of names."

"We sent volunteers to homes in order to collect the details, and to collect documents that will be preserved in our laboratories."

According to Wroclawski, the last operation was more than 10 years ago, and she feels that today there are more people who are willing to talk. "Many did not talk about their loved ones because of emotional stress, but we realized that if we send them volunteers who are willing to hear their story, then they open up. We are running this project worldwide."