

# Israeli terror crackdown leads to Sharon and the Temple Mount mafia

by Paolo Serri

In a Independence Day speech described as the harshest ever by any Israeli leader, President Chaim Herzog blasted the Jewish underground terrorist movement in the West Bank, describing the planners behind the projected April 27 bombing in Jerusalem of six buses as “irresponsible and insane.” “Unbalanced men would have brought disaster on the people of Israel, the state, and the Zionist enterprise. Treasonous acts like these endanger the independence we celebrate today.”

Israeli Prime Minister Yzhak Shamir stated that the security forces intervention “prevented a [national] catastrophe.” What emerges from still tight-lipped Israeli investigators is that these planners are extremely highly placed in Israeli and international politics and business. For the first time, they implicate names in terrorism that so far only *EIR* had the courage to print.

## The April 27 arrests

The outcry from Israeli authorities was motivated by the latest and biggest terrorist attempt, and by the escalation of Jewish terrorism as a whole in recent months.

On the morning of April 27, Shin Beth (Israeli internal security forces) and police deployed en masse in Jerusalem, discovering bombs under six Arab buses, bombs planned to explode simultaneously at 4:30 p.m., just after the Friday prayers at the Islamic holy shrine of the El-Aksa Mosque on Jerusalem’s Temple Mount. According to Israeli specialists, the bombs could have caused “hundreds of deaths” and unleashed Arab riots in the occupied territories and terrorism internationally. The 16 explosive charges of the type used by the Israeli army (Tshal) were placed in a very professional fashion in the engine, gas tank, and chassis of the buses.

The police immediately arrested some 30 suspects, three of whom confessed their involvement in the terrorist operation. Another two confessed their participation in the killing of three Arab students in July 1983 at the Hebron Islamic University. Among the arrested were a commander and two captains still active in the Tshal, another reservist commander, two active police officers, and one specialist in ex-

plosives. On May 8, Radio Jerusalem broadcast that among the arrested there was also an “active high-ranking military officer” who was providing the terrorist group with intelligence. Ensuing investigations showed that the terrorist network has also been involved in plans to blow up the Dome of the Rock and El-Aksa Mosque (see Special Report).

This crackdown follows the arrests in early April of four TNT (the Hebrew acronym for Terror Against Terror) members: the brothers Ami and Zvi Deri, their cousin David Deri, and Uri Ben Ayun, arrested before, according to Jerusalem police sources, for “yet another sabotage attempt against one of the mosques or churches in the Jerusalem area.”

Furthermore, according to the Israeli and West German press of April 9, the Shin Beth cracked down again on Jan. 21 on a fanatical terrorist group called Bal Nishkach (“Never Forget”), headed by the Polish Christian Andrej Kielczynski, recently converted to Judaism and responsible in the last months for 14 terrorist attacks against German institutions in Israel, including the “kidnapping” of an employee of the Goethe Institute. Shin Beth moved in the nick of time, after information was received that Bal Nishkach planned an attack against West German chancellor Helmut Kohl at a public event in Tel Aviv on Jan. 26. The group aimed at “killing, wounding” the German chancellor, “or at least blackmailing him” with the threat that one of its members would blow himself up with a grenade.

## The Ariel Sharon connection

Even more significant than the actual crackdown are the revelations in Israeli and international media around the ongoing investigations. As reported around the Bal Nishkach crackdown, this group enjoyed a “very warm relationship” to the former Begin government. The relationship was so warm that, as quoted in the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* of April 9, “some of its actions were even planned and organized in the prime minister’s office.”

Ariel Sharon’s key man in the current government is Rafi Eytan, known as “Dirty Rafi,” special adviser to the prime

minister on the war against terrorism. Eytan, the 1977 campaign manager for Sharon's election for the Knesset (parliament) seat, has long been linked to the former defense minister and Agriculture and Settlements Minister, and in contact with Israeli mafia. Uri Dan, another of Sharon's men, formerly his press spokesman at the defense ministry and now a mayor in the West Bank, became known internationally with his laudatory biography of the late head of international organized crime, Meyer Lansky.

Eytan replaced as anti-terror adviser Amihai Paglin, a close Begin friend who had died in a car accident in January 1978, and one of Begin's companions in the Irgun underground organization. Paglin was one of the few people Israeli founder and early premier Ben Gurion did not allow in the Israeli Defense Forces. In 1972, after the Munich Olympics massacre, Paglin was arrested in Israel, together with Rabbi Meir Kahane, head of the terrorist Jewish Defense League and the Kach Movement in Israel, for "smuggling weapons to fight Arab terror." Paglin, also known for his contacts to the Lansky network, was sentenced to a one-year suspended sentence, and became a top Begin adviser.

Sharon's name started to come up around the investigation with "deafening insistence," according to the *Jerusalem Post* of May 4. A Reuters dispatch from Israel on the same day stated: "Israeli security agents investigating an anti-Arab Jewish underground organization have questioned veterans of the disbanded Unit 101, a commando force once headed by the former defense minister, Ariel Sharon." The French weekly *L'Express* added: "There is a big temptation among his [Sharon's] opponents—and those are not lacking even in the government coalition—to implicate him in the plot." On May 7, the French daily *Le Figaro* reported the arrest of a "renowned land speculator in the West Bank associated with the government adviser on the fight against terrorism, Rafi Eytan." The next day, Radio Jerusalem explained that Eytan's speculator friend functioned as the "banker" for the terrorist group.

As *EIR* exposed in a world-wide scoop in November 1982, a secret meeting took place in the summer of 1982 in Lebanon between Ariel Sharon and the old Lebanese Christian warlord Camille Chamoun, at Chamoun's residence. A follow-up meeting was held in London with Henry Kissinger, Lord Harlech, the old CIA Middle East specialist Miles Copeland, and others: The subject of the two meetings were the creation of an international multimillion-dollar fund for a land grab in the West Bank.

After each terrorist operation against the El-Aksa Mosque and in the occupied territories, the shares of this secret fund skyrocketed.

### **Background: 1980-83**

The anti-terror crackdown in Israel, the accompanying revelations around the Sharon mafia, as well as the scandal

around the suspension of Assaf Hefetz from his job as the Tel Aviv Police Central Unit detectives chief, must be seen in the context of the July national election. Nationalist forces in both the Likud and opposition forces, as well as intelligence and police agencies, have recognized that the escalation of terrorist actions, like the repeated attacks against the Islamic mosques, the threat against Chancellor Kohl, and the bus plot, would undermine the future existence of the Israeli state.

The battle began in June 1980 after Israeli terrorism against four Palestinian mayors in the West Bank, two of them maimed by the bombs. At that time, as *L'Express* recalls in early May, "without any precedent, the head of the Shin Beth, Avraham Akhitev, resigned from his position with big clamor, during his [vain] investigation on the responsibility of the Gush Emunin in the attempts against the Palestinian mayors."

In the summer of 1983, Akhitev once again stated publicly that the Gush Emunin was the "psychological hothouse for terrorism."

Again in June 1983, as reported by Erich Follath in his book *The Eye of David*, a group of young Mossad (Israeli foreign service) officers wrote a secret report on the necessity of new directives for the service. Already recognizing the threat represented by the Khomeini regime—with which Ariel Sharon has maintained a friendly and profitable business relationship—the Mossad report states:

"As a last point we would urgently recommend that the Shin Beth also take care of the Jewish terrorist underground. After the events of Ramallah and Hebron we think it goes without saying that the Shin Beth should not only be concerned with Arab terrorists. Our international reputation is being damaged enormously and we must be able to make clear to everybody that we did everything to crack down on terrorist actions.

"Conclusion and Thesis VI: In the particular situation in the aftermath of the West Bank events, internal counter-espionage also has to be deployed against Jewish citizens—otherwise Israel loses its credibility in the world."

The same concern was expressed in a December 1982 internal report by Tel Aviv detective chief Assaf Hefetz on Jewish terrorists, among them the later-famous Shimon Barda, planning to sabotage Islamic centers in Jerusalem. This report was basically frozen in some desk drawer and not acted upon by Hefetz's superiors. One year later, the story broke on the pages of the popular *Ma'ariv* newspaper and Hefetz was suspended from his job, suspected of leaking the story. A court case is still ongoing, but already many top-ranking police officers have sided with Hefetz in what was described as "almost a mutiny" by Israeli commentators.

National rage provided the security and police investigators with the political backup for the crackdown the higher-level fundamentalist and terrorist structure in Israel that we have witnessed since late April.