

Terrorist Mordechai Levy is finally apprehended

by EIR's Counterintelligence Editors

On Aug. 10, Mordechai Levy, the leader of a small gang called the Jewish Defense Organization, was apprehended by members of the New York Police Department, after he had mounted to the roof of his 6 Bleecker Street apartment building in Greenwich Village and wounded an innocent passerby in wild sniper fire.

The arrest of the 29-year-old terrorist for attempted murder brings into the open a sordid story about the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which every American should know. For the past seven years, *operating as an approved agent of the FBI*, Mordechai Levy has been able to participate in bombing murders, intimidation threats, and incitement to murder, and has assisted the FBI in the railroading of imprisoned statesman Lyndon H. LaRouche. Levy has been acting with special impunity from justice, which was granted him by the FBI as part of a new domestic terrorism, reminiscent in every way of the Bureau's infamous Cointelpro program which resulted in the 1960s in race wars, and ultimately the assassination of civil rights leader Martin Luther King.

To expose the corruption of the Bureau's "Get LaRouche" task force, which employed Levy for his various terrorist missions, on Aug. 16 in New York City Warren J. Hamerman, chairman of the National Democratic Policy Committee, and Paul Goldstein, Counterintelligence Editor of *EIR*, held a press conference at Federal Plaza, right outside of New York FBI headquarters. Hamerman announced that the NDPC—the national political action committee of the LaRouche wing of the Democratic Party—is calling for "a full-scale investigation of the FBI role in controlling and then

covering up the illegal operations and activities of Mordechai Levy." Hamerman specifically identified FBI Deputy Director Oliver "Buck" Revell as the man at the center of FBI control over Levy, along with former Boston U.S. Attorney William Weld and FBI Special Agent Richard Egan. Hamerman said that, had the federal authorities heeded the repeated requests of Lyndon LaRouche and his associates to investigate Levy's terrorist actions then at the very least, an innocent bystander would not have been shot on Bleecker Street on Aug. 10.

Hamerman reported that associates of Lyndon LaRouche had previously approached a number of government authorities to request action on Levy as a terrorist threat, but that in every single case, they refused to act. Those authorities and agencies included: the Attorney General of the United States, the House and Senate Judiciary Committees, the FBI, the New York U.S. Attorney, the Secret Service, New York District Attorney Robert Morgenthau, and New York Police Department Detective John Finnegan. Hamerman said that one of the principal reasons why Levy has been protected, is that he has been an "FBI sting informant who was part of the stable used by the 'Get LaRouche' task force to illegally railroad LaRouche," starting with Henry Kissinger's 1982 demand to his friend, FBI Director William Webster. "Had this governmental and private federal-state-local task force acted according to normal rules of law and justice, rather than by using assassins and sting-informants like Levy," Hamerman said, "then Lyndon LaRouche would not be sitting in federal prison today," and several individuals whom the Bu-

reau apparently gave Levy immunity to participate in murdering, would be alive. Hamerman called for "rooting out the FBI corruption in the Levy case."

Over the years, *EIR*'s counterintelligence staff has gathered an exhaustive dossier on Mordechai Levy (see below). At the press conference, *EIR*'s Paul Goldstein presented parts of that dossier, focusing on his terrorist activities—from the murder of Tschirim Soobzokov and Alex Odeh, to assassination threats against Goldstein himself, LaRouche, and other LaRouche associates.

Goldstein also detailed the nature of Levy's curious relationship to an organization founded by Lyndon LaRouche. That relationship began in 1978-79, when, in response to a book by associates of LaRouche entitled *Dope, Inc.*, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith decided to defend certain minor figures cited in that book—such as mobster Meyer Lansky, who was later kicked out of Israel as an undesirable criminal element—by charging that LaRouche and his associates were "anti-Semites." Levy, who at the time was linked to ADL left-wing Socialist International "dirty tricks" specialist Irwin Suall, began to deliver a series of threats against LaRouche and his associates, culminating in an armed attempt to break into an apartment recently vacated by LaRouche, presumably in order to assassinate him.

Following that incident, Goldstein reported, he and other members of LaRouche's security staff temporarily convinced Levy that Levy had been entirely misled by Suall's ADL-inspired "anti-Semitic" slanders; Levy relented on his attacks somewhat, and agreed to provide information to Goldstein and others about those who were promulgating this libel. But in 1983-84, Levy was threatened by his controllers in the FBI, and he again turned wildly against LaRouche. It was following these FBI threats against Levy, that he went on a domestic terrorist rampage operating with an apparent "license to kill."

Goldstein, as a former defendant in the first federal trial against LaRouche in Boston in the first half of 1988, also detailed how Levy had been prepared by FBI agent Richard Egan as a key witness in that case. In early 1989, Levy bragged that it had been his testimony that helped railroad LaRouche in the second federal trial in Alexandria, Virginia, which had been started up after the Boston case collapsed on May 4, 1988, because of government misconduct.

At the New York press conference, Goldstein called upon "honest elements in the FBI" to step forward and participate in uncovering the sordid role of the Bureau's leadership in running Levy.

He also reported that Lyndon LaRouche, speaking from federal prison in Rochester, Minnesota, had had the following to say about the affair: "The wrong Ollie was tried and convicted first. It should have been Ollie 'Buck' Revell."

Following the press conference, additional information about the circumstances of Levy's arrest was offered by Robert I. Friedman of the *Village Voice*. Writing in Aug. 22 issue

in an article entitled "Oy Vey, Make My Day," Friedman partially corroborated charges made by *EIR* sources in the Israeli peace movement, that Levy's arrest may have come as a result of an international effort to expose his terrorist networks, since it came at the same time as a crackdown in Israel against Jewish Defense League founder Rabbi Meir Kahane, who was recently arrested in Israel for creating the equivalent of a "secret government" in the occupied territories, with weapons caches and the equivalent of "death squads" to kill Israeli leaders genuinely seeking peace with their Palestinian neighbors.

Yet another international dimension to Levy's recent activities was provided by Rabbi Avraham Weiss and Glenn Richter, both of whom are friends of Mordechai Levy and have continued to praise him even after his arrest. Rabbi Weiss's Coalition of Concern—founded to protest President Ronald Reagan's May 1985 trip to the Bitburg military cemetery in West Germany—has recently been involved in the attacks on the Carmelite convent at the Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland (see article, page 48).

The Levy dossier

On Aug. 10, following a two and a half-hour siege, New York City Police Department SWAT Squad and Hostage Negotiation Team officers arrested self-proclaimed Jewish militant Mordechai Levy, on charges of attempted murder, first degree assault, and reckless endangerment. The founder of the tiny Jewish Defense Organization and a former member of the Jewish Defense League (JDL), Levy had opened fire with a Ruger Mini-14 assault rifle from the roof of his apartment at 6 Bleecker Street in the Greenwich Village section of Manhattan, after two members of the JDL attempted to serve him with a subpoena to appear in court in Los Angeles. The subpoena concerned a libel case brought by the JDL against Levy for a June 2, 1989 appearance on Los Angeles radio station KFI, during which the JDL claimed Levy made slanderous allegations against the West Coast JDL leader Irv Rubin. When, on Aug. 10, JDL leader Irv Rubin and Steve Rombom arrived at Levy's apartment to serve him with papers, Levy ran to the roof and opened fire, hitting a bystander in the leg.

According to initial press accounts of the siege, in which police units had an armed personnel carrier on the scene, it was a "friend" of Levy's from the Federal Bureau of Investigation who finally convinced Levy to surrender to the police. Subsequent accounts denied that the FBI played any role in the resolution of the standoff, naming Det. Sgt. Wally Zeins and Lt. Hugh McGowan of the New York Police Department as the two individuals who talked Levy down. But New York FBI spokesman Joseph Valiquette, whom Levy had earlier named as a Bureau contact, has confirmed that an FBI unit was on the scene.

The issue of the FBI's purported involvement in the Aug. 10 events is significant because of Levy's longstanding status

as an informant and *agent provocateur* employed and protected by the Bureau. In a March 1986 *Executive Intelligence Review Special Report* titled "Moscow's Secret Weapon: Ariel Sharon and the Israeli Mafia," FBI Special Agents Joseph Valiquette and Paul Locke, both of the New York Field Office, are identified as two of Levy's Bureau controllers.

For the past seven years, Levy was an asset of the FBI's "Get LaRouche" task force, a special Department of Justice-led interagency strike force constituted in August 1982 following correspondence between former Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and FBI Director William Webster, in which Kissinger, in effect, demanded that the FBI jail LaRouche and shut down all of his political operations.

Because of the priority placed on the "Get LaRouche" operation, the FBI and Justice Department protected Levy for at least a five-year period, during which time he was implicated in a string of criminal actions, including jury tampering and a number of 1985 murders. During that same period, while operating under what has been described as an FBI "license to kill," Levy appeared before numerous state and federal grand juries constituted as part of the "Get LaRouche" effort, delivering perjured testimony. On March 4, 1984, Levy appeared on NBC-TV's "First Camera" broadcast which was devoted to slandering LaRouche, and falsely represented himself as a "former member" of an organization associated with the then-Democratic Party presidential candidate. Levy's phony remarks on that broadcast were aimed at providing a public pretext for an already ongoing escalated FBI "probe" into LaRouche and his associates.

In October 1984, when LaRouche's civil libel suit against NBC and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith for that broadcast came to trial in U.S. District Court in Alexandria, Virginia, Levy attempted to tamper with the jury at the behest of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, according to affidavits submitted in the case. According to Levy's own account of the incident, officials of the Los Angeles office of the ADL provided Levy with names, addresses, and telephone numbers of jurors in the trial, and instructed him to place threatening phone calls in LaRouche's name to the jurors. FBI Special Agent Richard Wade of the Alexandria Field Office was ordered by federal Judge James Cacheris to investigate the Levy jury-tampering evidence, but the investigation was quashed.

In January 1986, a security officer for Lyndon LaRouche met with the Special Agent in Charge of the Alexandria FBI office along with Special Agent Wade. The security officer was told that the FBI's files contained no records of any LaRouche complaints against Levy. That meeting had come about as a response to a string of murders that occurred during the second half of 1985, in which members of a terrorist "Jewish underground" were implicated. In a December 1985 speech at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., FBI Director Webster had identified the Jewish underground as

the most dangerous terrorist groups operating in the United States during the previous year. Webster concluded his remarks by warning that individuals falling within the "target zone" of the Jewish underground should expect further attacks. In virtually every instance of Jewish underground bombings, Mordechai Levy was at or near the scene of the attacks just days prior to the explosions. Let us follow the train of events:

- On Aug. 13, 1985, Mordechai Levy made a series of death threat phone calls to the New Jersey offices of Caucous Distributors, Inc.—at the time, the distributors of *Executive Intelligence Review* in the Northeast United States. As in earlier such threats by Levy, responsible law enforcement officials refused to investigate.

- On Aug. 15, 1985, Tschirim Soobzokov, a leader of the Circassian (Russian Caucasian) Muslim community in the United States and an activist in Middle East peace efforts, was blown up by a booby trap bomb which had been placed on the front porch of his home in Paterson, New Jersey, as he rushed to respond to a neighbor's alert that his car was on fire. Soobzokov had earlier been the victim of an unsuccessful attempt by the U.S. Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations (OSI) to frame him up, while he was serving the cause of a negotiated peace in the Middle East, as a "Nazi war criminal." Soobzokov died on Sept. 7 from injuries sustained in the bombing. Just days before the explosion, Mordechai Levy had been in Soobzokov's home town, publicly attacking Soobzokov at a local synagogue with the OSI's discredited label of "Nazi war criminal." Days after the bombing, Levy held a press conference in Paterson "applauding" the attack, while denying direct responsibility for the bomb. One week prior to the Soobzokov murder, Levy had phoned a death threat to Soobzokov's attorney Michael Dennis Esq., in which Levy vowed to kill Soobzokov.

- On Aug. 16, 1985, a Boston police officer was seriously injured while attempting to defuse a pipe bomb placed at the door of the Massachusetts headquarters of the Arab American Anti-Discrimination Committee (AADC). An anonymous caller had claimed responsibility for the bomb in the name of the JDL.

- On Sept. 7, 1985, Elmars Sprogis, a Brentwood, Long Island man was awakened to shouts from a young man on his front porch that his car was on fire. When Sprogis opened his door, a powerful bomb exploded, seriously wounding the young passerby Robert Siegfild.

- On Oct. 11, 1985, Alex Odeh, the director of the California AADC offices, was killed when a bomb went off at the Santa Ana, California offices of the group. Odeh had been named in threats made by the JDL, the JDO, and Levy personally. The Odeh murder occurred in the midst of the *Achille Lauro*, hijacking in which Palestinian terrorists took over a ship and killed one of the passengers.

- On Nov. 29, 1985, the Washington, D.C. headquarters of the AADC was bombed, causing tens of thousands of

dollars in damage.

In the midst of this explosion of targeted terrorist attacks, on Nov. 14, Levy gave a press conference in Washington, D.C. where he released a hit list of "enemies of the Jews" who were to be targeted for attack. Levy told the press that "to not kill" such "enemies of the Jewish people" would be "immoral." High on the typed list distributed by Levy were Lyndon LaRouche, diplomats of Arab countries, and the AADC.

In addition to a string of petty assault and illegal weapons

Lyndon LaRouche had the following to say about the Federal Bureau of Investigation's sponsorship of Levy's terrorism: "The wrong Ollie was tried and convicted first. It should have been Ollie 'Buck' Revell."

charges that have been pressed against Levy, the JDO leader has also been suspected in a number of car bombings directed at Soviet bloc and Arab diplomatic vehicles in New York and Los Angeles. In every one of these prior instances, Levy has avoided conviction and jail time.

Levy also remains a prime suspect in a series of incidents around Yeshiva University in New York City in the mid-1980s, in which Jewish students were shot, followed by retaliatory attacks against Hispanics and alleged neo-Nazis.

A 'bird dog' for hit squads

Professional security experts familiar with the Levy profile believe that his role in most of these recent instances of Jewish underground terrorism has been that of a "bird dog" who both identifies the target for hit squads and then draws the attention of law enforcement agencies elsewhere while the actual professional, often Israeli-based bombers, escape. This places Levy in the category of witting accomplice before and after the fact in some of the most dramatic acts of political terrorism carried out in the United States in the 1980s.

Despite this criminal track record—well known to the FBI and clearly reflected in Judge Webster's December 1985 National Press Club warning—Assistant U. S. Attorney John Markham, in filing a motion *in limine* in the 1988 Alexandria, Virginia federal prosecution of Lyndon LaRouche and six co-defendants, openly admitted that Levy had been used as a government informant attempting to entrap LaRouche associates into solicited obstruction of justice.

On Oct. 9, 1986, following their arrest during the 400-person paramilitary raid on the headquarters of several LaRouche-linked companies, two LaRouche associates, Michele and Jeffrey Steinberg, went before an Alexandria federal magistrate to seek bail. On the strength of perjured testimony by Boston FBI Special Agent Richard Egan, both Steinbergs were held without bail for 100 days. In that testimony, Egan cited Mordechai Levy as a "reliable informant" and one of the FBI's sources of information against LaRouche.

In late 1985, after the murder of Tscherim Soobzokov, Jeffrey Steinberg, acting in his capacity of Counterintelligence Editor of *EIR*, filed a formal request to U. S. Attorney General Edwin Meese to appoint an independent counsel to probe the murder. The reason cited in the application, filed by the Arlington, Virginia law firm of Fensterwald and Alcorn, was that a chief suspect in the bombing of Soobzokov, Mordechai Levy, was a protected intelligence asset of the FBI, and that the FBI had a conflict of interest in the case. Affidavits by Michele Steinberg had been appended to the application. Also cited was Levy's suspected authorship of the shooting of a .45 caliber bullet through the window of the home of a LaRouche associate, while his teenage son was at home. And, there was a listing of 23 other incidents of harassment and intimidation directed by Levy at LaRouche and his associates, including Levy's own admission that in 1979 he had gone to an apartment recently vacated by Lyndon LaRouche armed with the intent to kill him. The Attorney General refused to appoint the independent counsel.

In August 1986, after Levy had been used as an informant seeking to entrap and frame LaRouche and his associates, the *Jerusalem Post* reported that Levy told a press conference in Israel that "assassination may be the only answer" for "anti-Semites" like LaRouche. Levy also appeared on the Mort Downey television broadcast in 1988, when LaRouche was a guest, to issue new threats against LaRouche. During that show, over Downey's degenerate ravings, LaRouche pointed out the seriousness of such threats, given Levy's ties to Soobzokov's murder.

To this day, the Soobzokov case remains unsolved. Repeated warnings by *EIR* investigators to the FBI and his links to Jewish underground terrorism were ignored—right up to Aug. 10 when Levy mounted the roof of his Bleeker Street apartment building. The FBI and Department of Justice's harboring of a known terrorist only appears to have come to an end as the result of Levy's own "flight forward." According to eyewitness accounts of the Bleeker Street siege, Levy was in an agitated, paranoid state, convinced that his rivals in the Jewish underground, Irv Rubin and Steven Rombom, were out to kill him. Rombom had been convicted in the early 1980s of transporting explosives interstate. Perhaps Levy assumed that Rubin and Rombom now had been issued the "license to kill" that he himself had enjoyed for a decade while he served on Oliver Revell and Henry Kissinger's "Get LaRouche" strike force.