

המדיה

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Agency Turf War in Terror Case

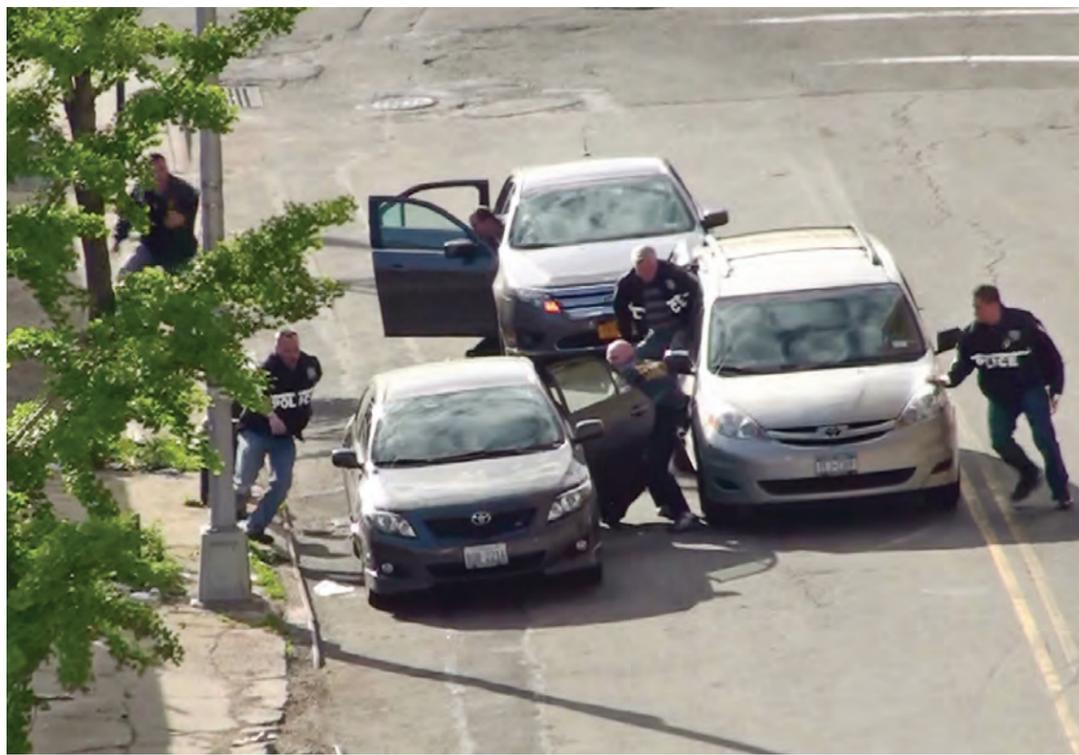
BY YOSEF RAPAPORT

Michael Wildes has a license to carry a gun and lectures extensively about the need for more security in Jewish institutions.

- EXCLUSIVE -

The former mayor of Englewood from 2004 through 2009, he is an expert on security in the Jewish community and immigration lawyer at the prestigious Manhattan-based law firm Wildes & Weinberg. He is also a former federal prosecutor with the U.S. Attorney in the
Continued on page 5

Two Men Arrested; Plotted Attack on NYC Shul



AP Photo/New York City Police Department

Police intercept a vehicle carrying two people who bought guns and a grenade to launch an attack on a New York shul on Wednesday.

NEW YORK (AP) – Two Americans of North African descent, one of whom complained that the world was treating Muslims “like dogs,” bought guns and a grenade and wanted to carry out a terror plot against a New York shul, officials said yesterday.

One of the alleged homegrown terrorists arrested in a sting operation also expressed interest in bombing the Empire State Building, Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly said.

Ahmed Ferhani, a 26-year-old of Algerian descent, and Mohamed Mamdouh, a 20-year-old of Moroccan descent, plotted to bomb a “major synagogue” in Manhattan and bought several weapons and an inert hand grenade from an undercover officer, Mayor Michael Bloomberg said.

Officials said they had been using an undercover detective wearing a wire to track Ferhani for several months, and that he had said he was fed up with the way
Continued on page 4

Palestinians Threaten Intifada III

BY HAMODIA STAFF

YERUSHALAYIM – The Palestinian Authority would not be able to prevent another intifada while peace talks with Israel remain indefinitely on hold, a senior Fatah official told Army Radio yesterday.

The comment was made as both Israeli and Palestinian Authority officials urged calm during the three days, starting today, of the Palestinian commemoration of the *Nakba*, the “Catastrophe” – the Palestinian epithet for the establishment of the state of Israel.

Speaking with Army Radio yesterday, Abbas Zaki, a member of the Fatah delegation to reconciliation talks with Hamas, said that faced with Mideast uprisings, the Palestinian Authority would not be able to suppress popular unrest.

“The Palestinian leadership facing a [diplomatic] impasse could not quiet the Palestinian street [which] had watched the
Continued on page 6

Closing Arguments Cap Three-Year Trial

Grunwald verdict to be announced Monday

TRIAL OF BACHUR IN JAPAN

BY YOCHONON DONN

CHIBA, Japan – Yoel Zev Goldstein gave an impassioned speech in his own defense yesterday, telling the three trial

judges presiding over closing arguments that he was brought up in a religious home and would never transport an item that would cause harm to others.

Aron Nezri, one of the *askanim* who attended the trial in

Chiba, told *Hamodia* that Yoel Zev summarized his insular lifestyle growing up in the Satmar community in Bnei Brak, where drugs are unknown and spare time is dedicated to helping the less fortunate.
Continued on page 7

German Court Convicts, Then Frees Demjanjuk

MUNICH (AP) – Retired U.S. autoworker John Demjanjuk was convicted yesterday of accessory to murder as a low-level Nazi death-camp guard, a groundbreaking decision setting a precedent that could open the floodgates to a new wave of prosecutions in Germany.

Demjanjuk was sentenced to five years in prison on 28,060 counts of accessory to murder for the number of people who were killed in the Sobibor death camp when the court said evidence shows he stood guard there in 1943.

But the 91-year-old will spend no immediate time behind bars after Presiding Judge Ralph Alt ordered him released from custody pending his appeal – a process that could take at least a year.

Though such a move is common under the German system, it drew the immediate ire of some of those who had been pushing for Demjanjuk's conviction.
Continued on page 2



Tsemach Glenn



Tsemach Glenn

Left: Rabbi Dovid Nojowitz, *Menahel* of Torah Umesorah, welcoming delegates at the Torah Umesorah Convention last night. Right: Hagaon Harav Malkiel Kotler, *Rosh Yeshivah*, Beis Medrash Govoha of Lakewood, delivering last night's main address.



Tension Between Agencies

Continued from page 1

Eastern District of New York.

Yesterday, Mr. Wildes shared with Hamodia his highly qualified perspective on the terror arrests in New York City and the law enforcement dynamics involved.

Major terrorism cases in New York City are generally handled by the Joint Terrorism Task Force made up of NYPD detectives and federal agents from the FBI, and are prosecuted by the United States Attorney's office in federal court.

But according to a New York Times report, the Task Force chose not to be involved in the case announced yesterday. As a result, the two arrests on Wednesday were made by the NYPD's own Intelligence Division, which has a history of tense relations with the FBI.

The following are excerpts of Mr. Wildes' remarks during the interview.

The federal government has a lot on its plate and it could be that the [maximum potential] sentencing was strong enough on the state level [for the feds to pass].

I personally take greater comfort if the federal government is prosecuting this case, but I can't comment on what happened behind the doors ...

State prosecutors have less federal or international entanglements. The federal government is also represented by the State Department, which has relations with a lot of Middle Eastern countries, which can slow down the work of a prosecution.

You don't have international intrigue and politics with a state prosecutor. There are always turf wars that occur between federal and state prosecutors. It's important that ... no matter what, that these [suspects] never see a day outside of jail and that politics never enter into the equation.

It is my belief that priority should be given to the federal government, as our nation's homeland security is imperiled — not just the synagogue they sought to destroy.

So why did the feds pass on the opportunity to take on the case?

Top Imam: We're With the Jews

MANHATTAN — The leader of New York City's largest mosque yesterday conveyed regrets about the latest case of Muslims charged with plotting terrorism against synagogues — and acknowledged an ongoing problem among his flock.

"This is really a concern for us. I feel that I have even more homework to do in our own community because this kind of stupidity by some members of the community certainly cannot be tolerated any more," said Imam Shamsi Ali of the Islamic Cultural Center of New York at 96th Street and 3rd Avenue.

Ali's comments were made in an on-camera interview with freelance journalist Shimon Gifter

The [U.S.] State Department has a strong fellowship with many Arab nations that can gum up the works in a federal prosecution.

You are making quite a serious charge.

I have been involved with a Saudi diplomat who defected. It was only through [former Manhattan] DA Robert Morgenthau's personal intervention that his safety was assured.

So sometimes politics plays itself better when the state gets involved rather than the machinations of the federal government and their relationships to other Arab nations.

Wasn't the 9/11 Commission supposed to take care of turf war hindrances?

It takes a long time for a leopard to lose its spots. The Commission's suggestions are merely suggestions and are obviously not being heeded.

The men [in the alleged plot announced Wednesday] were arrested immediately after [allegedly] purchasing weapons from an undercover agent. Obviously, the agent was a state level official. Everything from the Smith and Wesson handgun, the ammunition, a lot of the forensic and local details on how they put it together, will play heavily on who should be bringing the prosecution.

Is there a chance the feds will take over this case?

If [the suspects] are said to be 'lone wolves' not connected to any formal groups such as al-Qaeda, let a regional prosecutor bring the case because we don't want to overreact, lest more tax payers dollars and more attention are given to these matters. The terrorists win every time we give these insidious individuals greater attention and focus.

If testimony comes out in a public setting showing the federal government can do a better job, at some point they may claim jurisdiction. At this juncture we have to trust that the feds have the best of intentions despite what we see politically.

following the City Hall press conference on the NYPD arrest of two alleged local jihadists who authorities say had prepared to attack synagogues with guns and a grenade.

"I just want to say to our Jewish brothers and sisters in the city that we are with you, and if such a thing happens we would be to your side, as you have been to our side in the past," Ali continued.

He painted a picture contrary to the one widely perceived—that Muslim culture offers a haven for terrorist ambitions.

"The [Muslim] community is very much working with the FBI," Ali stated. "Our relationship with the NYPD is wonderful."

Chassidic Scientist, a Solar Energy Pioneer, Passes Away

NEW YORK — Solar energy pioneer Yaacov (Jack) Hanoka, who held patents for 56 of his inventions and was known for his passion and optimism in finding alternative energy sources to fossil fuels, passed away Sunday at the age of 75.

The Chabad chassid held a Ph.D. in solid state physics and was a pioneer in exploring the interplay between Torah and science. He occupied a leading role in founding the Chabad-Lubavitch weekend study programs that became popular among Jewish college students and professors in the early 1960s.

As chief technology officer of Evergreen Solar, Inc., Hanoka headed a successful effort to reduce the cost of harnessing the sun's light in the creation of electricity.

Hanoka "was very inventive [and exhibited an] extraordinary level of energy," said Emanuel Sachs, a professor of mechanical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

While he authored more than 70 publications on solar energy, Hanoka devoted much of his time to Torah study and writing papers addressing apparent contradictions between Judaism and science. Among his efforts was explaining in scientific language the stance of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Harav Menachem M. Schneerson, zt"l, on reading the account of creation in the Chumash literally.

Many of his papers appeared in the scientific journal *B'or Hatorah*, including a critique of evolution and carbon dating.

"There are varying degrees of certainty regarding scientific



Chabad.org

Yaacov (Jack) Hanoka, z"l.

ideas," he wrote, "[and] science is not a monolithic activity in a search for absolute truth of the world that we inhabit."

He brought proof from the 20th century revelations of relativity and quantum theory, which overturned the classical view of the world.

"Physicists believed that they understood most of the basic principles that govern the physical world and that there were just a few puzzling things to be explained," he explained. And along came new discoveries that challenged those principles.

In the early 1950s, Chabad-Lubavitch rabbinical students began travelling to college campuses throughout the United States to give Torah classes and organize weekend programs for Jewish students. At Pennsylvania State University in 1962, they encountered a free-thinking, spirited intellectual in Jack Hanoka. Soon after, Hanoka visited the Crown Heights Jewish community and had a private audience with the Rebbe.

"I had no prior Jewish knowledge," Hanoka said in a 2006 interview, and "since that

Shabbat, I was searching for my place in Judaism. I decided that I wanted to remain and study with the students in Brooklyn."

Hanoka's defining characteristic was his unfailing positive outlook on life; he viewed obstacles and difficulties as challenges to be overcome, not problems to be endured.

"He had a sense of urgency, cherishing each moment to use it well," recalled Rabbi Shmuel Lew of Lubavitch of the UK, a co-organizer of the Encounter With Chabad program in the 1960s. "He had a total dedication to what he knew was right, with a consistency that has stood the test of time over decades."

His co-workers agreed. "He had such energy, personal drive, creativity, dedication and love of life," added Mark Farber, "to the extent that [the] company's energy stemmed from one person. It was [him] who inspired others."

Richard Chleboski, who worked with Hanoka at Evergreen Solar, said, "It was rare to find a man who can couple faith, optimism and pragmatic abilities." (Chabad.org)

NY Briefs

LIRR: Regular Service Resumes This Morning

NEW YORK (AP) — The Long Island Rail Road says it expects to have regular service restored by this morning.

Yesterday afternoon, the LIRR said it will have a "significantly reduced" rush-hour schedule for the afternoon rush hour.

Crews have been repairing a damaged track in an East River tunnel all week. The disruptions are the result of an empty Amtrak train derailment on Sunday.

Fuming Over Cost of Gas? Don't Expect Tax Break

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — While politicians in New York, Indiana, New Hampshire and Illinois are among the first talking about easing gasoline taxes, the chances of actually seeing that kind of relief at the pump are remote.

Even as prices hover around \$4 a gallon and states consider cuts in taxes up to 50 cents off each gallon, there is resistance

amid ongoing fiscal woes.

More states are expected to consider the idea as summer approaches and as they join New York, Alaska, California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois and Washington, D.C. with \$4-a-gallon gas.

Some states have already rejected a "gas tax holiday."

Walcott Meets With Religious School Committee

NEW YORK CITY — The City Committee of Religious and Independent School Officials met with new Schools Chancellor Dennis Walcott on Wednesday.

The committee, chaired by Rabbi Chaim Dovid Zwiebel, executive vice president of Agudath Israel of America, is comprised of representatives from faith-based groups with their own school systems in the city. The schools represented by the committee have a combined enrollment of approximately 250,000 children, a fifth of the City's student population.

Rabbi Zwiebel congratulated Mr. Walcott on his recent appointment and commented on

his positive, long-standing relationship with the nonpublic school community. Prior to becoming head of the public school system last month, Mr. Walcott was deputy mayor in charge of education for the Bloomberg Administration for nine years. Previously, he was a member of the City Board of Education.

Rabbi Zwiebel also commented on the diversity of the religious school community in New York, and how the committee members work collaboratively.

Judge OKs Brooklyn Mosque Project

NEW YORK (AP) — A judge has denied a preliminary injunction to stop the construction of a Brooklyn mosque that had been defaced with graffiti.

An opposition group, Bay People, said they will appeal the judge's decision.

The *Daily News* reports that the words "He is dead" and happy faces had been spray-painted on the plywood walls of the construction site after news of Osama bin Laden's death.