



# ☆ BAT KOL NEWS ☆

מאי ססמגור? אמר רבי אבא: בת קול.

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## Argentine prez, others face investigation, while Nisman's ex-wife calls for international probe in his death

Source: JTA-2/13/2015

BUENOS AIRES (JTA) — Argentine Federal Prosecutor Gerardo Politica is requesting permission to investigate President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, Foreign Minister Héctor Timerman and others members of the Argentine government in the cover-up of Iran's involvement in the AMIA bombing. Politica asked Federal Judge Daniel Rafecas on Friday to open an investigation to determine if Fernández de Kirchner ordered the Foreign Ministry to sign a pact with Iran to ignore the Iranian responsibilities in AMIA 1994 attack in exchange for commercial benefits. Politica based the request on the 290-page complaint drafted by AMIA special prosecutor Alberto Nisman, who was found dead on Jan. 16, shortly before he was to present allegations to Congress, Politica Rafecas to collect evidence in order to move forward with the probe. In a related development, Nisman's ex-wife on Thursday called for an international investigation of his mysterious death. Sandra Arroyo Salgado, herself a judge, made the plea at a meeting organized by opposition parties in Congress, where she stated that she had asked the Public Defender's Office to have Nisman's Jan. 18 death investigated by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. "The Argentine state acknowledged its responsibility before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights for not investigating [its] worst-ever terrorist attack that killed 85 people and now also the prosecutor investigating the case," she said in a statement that was widely interpreted as implying that Argentine justice authorities have not demonstrated the competence necessary to investigate the death of Nisman. Nisman, who was Jewish, was in 2004 appointed chief prosecutor of the bombing at the AMIA Jewish community center. Nisman accused President Cristina Fernandez of brokering a secret deal with Iran to help shield Iranian officials charged in the attack. Fernandez has denied that. Nisman's ex-wife also complained of leaks in the probe into his death, which is headed by investigator Viviana Fein. "One does not need to be a lawyer to understand that leaking information of an ongoing criminal investigation can make it collapse," Arroyo Salgado said. Fein initially said Nisman's death was a suicide but later changed that hypothesis, suggesting he was murdered. Nisman's death, which shocked many Argentines, will be commemorated in rallies around the world on Feb. 18 - exactly one month after he died. In the United States, rallies are scheduled in Miami, New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Washington, Minneapolis, Las Vegas, Houston and San Francisco, in addition to rallies planned in Europe, in Berlin, Athens and Paris.

## Study: Luxembourg wartime bosses willingly helped Nazis find Jews

Source: JTA-2/13/2015



(JTA) — Luxembourg's wartime bosses willingly cooperated with German Nazis in the persecution of Jews during the Holocaust, a government-commissioned study determined. The report by a panel of historians led by Vincent Artuso of the University of Luxembourg was published on Tuesday, two years after it was commissioned by Jean-Claude Juncker, a former prime minister of the small, landlocked country situated on Belgium's border with France and Germany. "The Luxembourg administrations under occupation were not forced to participate in Nazi anti-Semitic persecution under threat," the 190-page report said. "They collaborated once they were invited to by the occupier and often fulfilled their task with diligence, zeal even — certain heads of the administration did not hesitate to take the initiative," it said. Luxembourg was neutral when Germany invaded in 1940, and was eventually annexed. There was a national uprising and a general strike after the annexation. Once that was suppressed, the Germans instituted mandatory military conscription for men. A discovery in 2013 by historian Denis Scuto of a list of 280 Jewish children transported to their deaths generated a public debate that prompted former prime minister Juncker to commission the study on local complicity during the Holocaust. According to the Yad Vashem Holocaust museum in Jerusalem, Luxembourg had 3,500 Jews before Germany invaded, of whom 1,945 were murdered in death camps and in the country itself. Only a few Jews returned after the war.

## Mishpatim

Exodus 21:1-24:18

Following the revelation at Sinai, G-d legislates a series of laws for the people of Israel. These include the laws of the indentured servant; the penalties for murder, kidnapping, assault and theft; civil laws pertaining to redress of damages, the granting of loans and the responsibilities of the "Four Guardians"; and the rules governing the conduct of justice by courts of law. Also included are laws warning against mistreatment of foreigners; the observance of the seasonal festivals, and the agricultural gifts that are to be brought to the Holy Temple in Jerusalem; the prohibition against cooking meat with milk; and the mitzvah of prayer. Altogether, the Parshah of Mishpatim contains 53 mitzvot—23 imperative commandments and 30 prohibitions. G-d promises to bring the people of Israel to the Holy Land, and warns them against assuming the pagan ways of its current inhabitants. The people of Israel proclaim, "We will do and we will hear all that G-d commands us." Leaving Aaron and Hur in charge in the Israelite camp, Moses ascends Mount Sinai and remains there for forty days and forty nights to receive the Torah from G-d.



Aaron and Hur

## Mishpatim Haftorah

Jeremiah 34:8-22; 33:25-26.

In this week's haftorah, Jeremiah describes the punishment that would befall the Jews because they continued enslaving their Hebrew slaves after six years of service--transgressing the commandment discussed in the beginning of this week's Torah reading. King Zedekiah made a pact with the people according to which they would all release their Jewish slaves after six years of service--as commanded in the Torah. Shortly thereafter, the Jews reneged on this pact and forced their freed slaves to re-enter into service. G-d then dispatched Jeremiah with a message of rebuke: "Therefore, so says the Lord: You have not hearkened to Me to proclaim freedom, every one to his brother and every one to his neighbor; behold I proclaim freedom to you, says the Lord, to the sword, to the pestilence, and to the famine, and I will make you an object of horror to all the kingdoms of the earth." The haftorah then vividly depicts the destruction and devastation that the Jews would experience. The haftorah concludes with words of reassurance: "Just as I would not cancel My covenant with the day and night and I would not cancel the laws of heaven and earth, so too I will not cast away the descendents of Jacob . . . for I will return their captivity [to their land] and have mercy on them."



King Zedekiah and Jeremiah

## Wiesel pleads with Obama, Congress, settle differences, let Netanyahu speak

Source: JTA-2/13/2015



WASHINGTON (JTA) - Elie Wiesel urged President Barack Obama and Congress to put aside their differences over Benjamin Netanyahu's speech to the body next month, saying the Israeli prime minister's message in Iran was too important. "I plead with you to put aside the politics that have obscured the critical decisions to be made," the Holocaust memoirist and Nobel Peace laureate said in an ad promoted Thursday by Rabbi Shmuley Boteach, a onetime Republican candidate for Congress who has sharply criticized the pushback against the planned speech. "Surely it is within your power to find a solution that will permit Israel's prime minister to deliver his urgent message," Boehner invited Netanyahu in part so the Israeli leader could rebut Obama's support for nuclear talks with Iran, which Obama says is constructive and Netanyahu and Republicans believe will leave Iran on the threshold of attaining nuclear weapons. Wiesel likened the modern Iranian leaders to the biblical Haman, noting the speech will take place on the eve of Purim. "As Queen Esther said when addressing her king: 'How can I behold the destruction of my people?'" he says in the ad.

## Jewish Defense League being revived in Montreal

Source: JTA-2/12/2015

MONTREAL (JTA) - The long-dormant Jewish Defense League said it was setting up shop outside Montreal despite opposition by local Jewish and Muslim groups. JDL leader Meir Weinstein of Toronto said he was establishing the country's second branch of the self-defense group on Feb. 16 to stem the rise of "radical Islam" in Quebec and to help the pro-Israel Conservative Party government return to power in a national election slated for the fall. Weinstein, 56, said he planned to have local JDL members aggressively monitor and "infiltrate" radical Islamic groups. In the United States, the FBI in 2001 labeled the JDL, founded by the late Rabbi Meir Kahane, a violent "right-wing terrorist group." The group has been inactive in the U.S. for years. In August, Weinstein, in the wake of some incidents of anti-Semitic vandalism in Montreal, organized a local meeting to gauge interest in reviving the JDL after decades. 50 people reportedly attended the meeting.

## Canadian Jewish leaders question, plan legalization of assisted suicide

Source: JTA-2/12/2015

TORONTO (JTA) - Jewish leaders in Canada reacted with caution and disappointment to a decision by the country's Supreme Court legalizing assisted suicide. Canada's high court struck down the country's laws against physician-assisted suicide, meaning it will no longer be illegal for a doctor to help someone who is ill and suffering to end his life. But the ban struck down last week won't be lifted for another year and assisted suicide will have conditions attached. The Toronto Board of Rabbis, the country's largest rabbinic group, has scheduled "a study day" for later this month to explore differing perspectives on the issue, board president Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl said this week, and later will issue a statement. But in an email to JTA, Frydman-Kohl, of Toronto's Beth Tzedec Congregation, the largest in Canada, said he was concerned the ruling "will blur the distinctive protection that we give to human life and diminish the desire to care with dedication and devotion for the weakest and most vulnerable of our society."

## CBS News reporter Bob Simon killed in N.Y. car crash

Source: JTA-2/12/2015

(JTA) - Bob Simon, the Emmy Award-winning CBS News and "60 Minutes" correspondent, was killed in a car accident in New York City. Simon, who covered nearly every major overseas conflict and news story since the late 1960s, reportedly was a passenger in a hired car on Wednesday evening that hit another car on Manhattan's West Side. He was 73. He was pronounced dead upon arrival at Saint Luke's Roosevelt Hospital, Reuters reported, citing police. Simon earned 27 Emmy Awards and was awarded the Alfred I. DuPont-Columbia University Award for a "60 Minutes II" report on genocide during the Bosnian War. His career in war reporting began in Vietnam, according to The Associated Press. Simon was held captive in Iraq for 40 days in January 1991 after being captured with a CBS News team while reporting on the Gulf War. He wrote about the experience in his book "Forty Days." As a prisoner of the Iraqis, Simon told JTA in 1991, he worried that "his Jewishness might cost him his life." "I thought my number was up when they started accusing me of being a member of Mossad," he told JTA. Simon returned to Iraq in 1993 to report on the American bombing of the country. In April 2012, Simon faced the wrath of the pro-Israel community following his report on the plight of Christians in the West Bank and Jerusalem that focused on Israeli policies as a cause of the decline of the area's Arab Christian population, as well as its reliance on an anti-Israel Palestinian Lutheran pastor as a key source. He had worked in the CBS Tel Aviv bureau from 1977 to 1981.

## Influence of the Lamedvavniks

From: JEWISH STORIES by L. Grunfeld

Prologue:

36 Lamedvavniks figured in kabbalistic folk legend of the 16th-17th centuries and in hasidic lore from the end of the 18th century. At times of great peril, a lamedvavnik makes a dramatic appearance. Using hidden powers to effect the fate of the world, after which the Lamedvavnik returns mysteriously to obscurity.

## CHAPTER #5- Processing Revelations

Although the lucid dream left him confused, his curiosity gave him sufficient confidence to pursue an answer. But what was the question? He had to formulate a coherent question in order to continue with his quest. And after much consideration, he realized that the question would have to be multilayered. One: what was the meaning of the pendant? Two: was the information useful insofar as to enhance his development in Judaism? And three, could all this knowledge affect not only himself -but the world as well? That last one left him apprehensive, still he would get to work on cleaning the pendant anyway. Physical work always stopped his mind from wandering to the realms of unresolved imaginings. There would be time enough to approach the rabbi with a more prepared attitude at the next Sunday meeting. During his spare time from studying for his *semicha*, Yakov Arieh finished cleaning the pendant. He would eventually reveal it only to Rabbi Kindberg.

The Sunday evening class convened and Dov Mendel, the scientist asked the rabbi to describe an example of *Kabbalah Ma'asit*, the practical side of Kabbalah. One in which the world can be affected. Rabbi Kindberg was always aware that such dangerous questions would always arise. His initial plan was to steer these discussions mainly toward *Kabbalah Iyunit*, the contemplative side of Kabbalah -but knowing human nature, the inevitable request would have to be satisfied. He began by providing a warning to those who needed this kind of demonstration - explaining that it would lead to a distraction from Kabbalah's real intent: toward bettering a human being in order to be a part of Tikun Olam. But skeptics like Dov Mendel needed to remain on track. The rabbi provided a facile formula in the guise of a short narrative. He began with an example of how it was possible to make rain. (To be continued)

משיב הרוח ומורד הגשם

NOTE: Previous chapters available on website: <http://batkolnews.yolasite.com/bat-kol-copies.php>

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Contact: Rabbi Avi Kasten



## BAT KOL NEWS

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NEXT WEEK'S SERVICES\*

Candle lighting	5:18 PM
FRIDAY Minha / Maariv	5:20 PM
SATURDAY morning	9:30 AM
SATURDAY Minha / Maariv	5:20 PM
Shabbat ends	6:24 PM
SUNDAY	8:10 AM
FAST OF ESTHER	MARCH 4
PURIM	MARCH 5

\*Subject to change per Rabbi's announcements.