

# Minister derides Reform Judaism as 'imitation'

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel's interior minister, Aryeh Deri of the Sephardic Orthodox Shas party, called Reform Judaism an "imitation" and said he "can do without that Judaism."

Deri, the Shas leader, reportedly made the comments on Monday during a question-and-answer session in the Knesset.

"I want the original, not the imitation" of Judaism, Deri said in response to a question from the centrist Yesh Atid party's Elazar Stern about the altercations last week at the Western Wall, when leaders of the Reform and Conservative movements brought at least 12 Torah scrolls into the women's section for a prayer service.

Protesters for egalitarian worship at the Western Wall were met with pushing and shoving by haredi Orthodox worshippers and berated with cries including "Nazis" and "whores."

"The Reform and Conservative Jews are our brothers, but I have serious differences of opinion with them," Deri said. "What is the Kotel? The remains of the Temple which we believe and yearn will be rebuilt and we will offer sacrifices there. They don't believe in that and don't want it. Provocation. With all due respect, this is not a matter of coming together or distancing, but an ideological dispute."

Deri reportedly added that the non-Orthodox movements are "causing great damage to Judaism."

He said by way of explanation that he visited the northern Israeli city of Karmiel, where he saw a government-funded Reform synagogue that he said put out trampolines and vending machines on Yom Kippur, and to which its members drive on Shabbat.

"I ask you, is that the Judaism we want?" Deri asked. "I'm willing to do without this Judaism."

## Teen sentenced to life In murder of Dafna Meir

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The Palestinian teenager who murdered Dafna Meir, a mother of six, in her West Bank home was sentenced to life in prison.

The teen, who was 16 at the time of the murder, was sentenced Nov. 2 by a West Bank military court that also ordered him to pay nearly \$200,000 to the family in compensation.

The court also recommended that authorities prevent an early release due to the unusually cruel nature of the crime.

He was arrested two days after the Jan. 17 murder in Otniel and confessed to the killing during an interrogation, the Shin Bet security service said at the time of his arrest.

## Boy, 14, gets 12 years for stabbing-12 year-old

JERUSALEM (JTA) — A Palestinian boy, 14, was sentenced to 12 years in prison for his involvement in a stabbing attack that injured two Israelis, including a 12-year-old boy.

The court also ordered the teen to pay compensation to the boy and his other victim, a 30-year-old Israeli man.

Shortly after his arrest, the Palestinian teens reportedly said that he and his cousin had planned to kill a Jew in revenge for the treatment of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, and the believed change in the status quo at the Temple Mount.

Later in his interrogation he changed his story, saying they only wanted to scare Jews.

## ISRAEL BRIEFS

### Interpol nixes Palestinian request for membership

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Interpol resolved this week not to consider a request by the Palestinian Authority to join the international police force following intervention by Israel.

The Times of Israel reported that Israeli diplomats lobbied member countries and police representatives spoke with their Interpol peers. Sixty-two countries among the 190 member states voted against including the Palestinian request on the agenda, according to the statement.

"Many others abstained in a forum where many countries traditionally automatically support the Palestinian agenda," it said.

### Wonder Woman Gal Gadot on Twitter: she's pregnant

(JTA) — Israeli actress Gal Gadot announced in a tweet that she and her husband are expecting their second child.

Gadot, who will play Wonder Woman in DC Comics movies, posted a selfie on Sunday evening of herself and husband Yaron Varsano, an Israeli real estate developer, making a heart shape with their hands. The hashtag reads #mommyforthesecondtime. The couple have a 5-year-old daughter.

Her character will soon have a movie of her own. Taking place during the World War

I era, the movie will introduce Wonder Woman's alter ego, Diana Prince, and her origins on the Amazonian island of Themyscira.

### Israel marks 'Aliyah Day'

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel marked its first official Aliyah Day on Tuesday. The holiday was established by the Knesset in June.

"I say to all Jews, without distinction, that I want them and their prayers and their rabbis here in Israel," said Natan Sharansky, head of the Jewish Agency for Israel. "There is room for all of us here, and we must tell all Jews who support us abroad and all who wish to immigrate to Israel that they are wanted and accepted among us."

### Palestinian trying to stab Israeli soldier is shot dead

JERUSALEM (JTA) — A Palestinian man was shot and killed in an attempted stabbing attack on an Israeli soldier near Ofra.

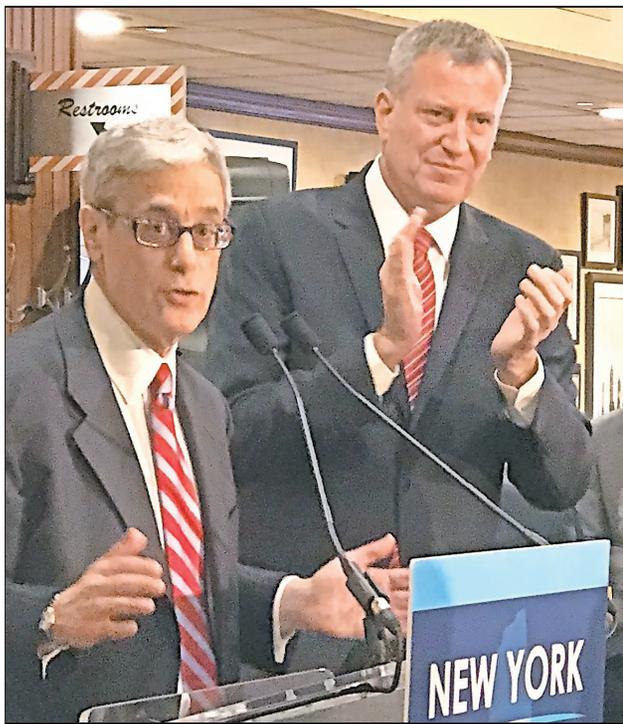
The man was armed with a knife when he approached soldiers standing guard near a bus stop, the IDF said of the Nov. 3 incident. In response, the soldiers shot the assailant.

### NBN opens 2 new centers

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Nefesh B'Nefesh will open two new centers (in Tel Aviv and Karmiel) to help new immigrants.

In addition, the organization announced that it would expand its post-*aliyah* programming to help the new arrivals acclimate and integrate in Israel.

The Life in Israel programs include workshops on navigating the health care system and understanding the tax system, as well as higher education counseling.



## B'klyn pols flock to pre-vote b'fast

Brooklyn's political establishment rallied as it always does on the Friday morning before election day — at Junior's Restaurant in the newly-chic Downtown district, for Steve Cohn's cheesecake breakfast.

Cohn, a leader in the borough's Democratic Party, drew about 200 elected officials, civic leaders, political consultants, media people and others with an interest making the city tick. A section of the popular eatery served kosher food.

*Pictured clockwise from top left:* Steve Cohn and Mayor Bill de Blasio; Gov. Andrew Cuomo with Rabbi Yeruchim Silber, executive director of the Boro Park Jewish Community Council; Political consultant and publicist Ezra Friedlander; Queens Assemblyman David Weprin with Rabbi David Niederman, executive director and president of the United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg; The Jewish Star Advertising Director Celia Weintrob; and former Brooklyn Borough President Howard Golden with The Jewish Star Editor and Publisher Ed Weintrob.

*The Brooklyn Paper photos by Ed Weintrob*

