

Relatives Of Jewish Underground Defendants Demand Their Release

JERUSALEM (WNS) — Relatives of defendants in the Jewish underground trial sent a letter to Police Minister Haim Barlev demanding that their relatives get leave to spend the High Holy Days with their families. The relatives also began a campaign to get rabbis to sign a petition with the same demand. The two Chief Rabbis signed.

In their letter to Barlev, the relatives demanded "at least the same treatment given to Arab detainees who

were released during the recent Moslem holiday of Id Al Adha from the Ansar Camp." Ansar is a detention camp in south Lebanon. The relatives warned that if the defendants are not released for the holidays, they would conduct a protest prayer outside the Tel Mond prison, where they are held.

Meanwhile, the third day of the trial in Jerusalem was brief, less than a half hour. Michale Gal, a sapper officer at the police general headquar-

ters laboratories, testified for the prosecution regarding explosives and other devices which were found in the homes of the defendants. The court was shown a video film which showed the devices, among them 113 old Syrian mines, 60 explosive charges and a large number of rifles.

In previous sessions of the trial, the defense persistently tried to weaken the case for the prosecution, mainly by suggesting that explosive material used to prepare bombs, which were discovered under five Arab-owned buses in Jerusalem last April 27, were spoiled and might not have been capable of causing damage or injuries.

But under questioning by the prosecution, Yonathan Lichet, head of the police explosive

laboratory, in Jerusalem, said that the explosives were placed under the buses in such a way that if detonated, they could have killed passengers.

Meanwhile the defense charged Sept. 20 that confessions were extorted from the 20 defendants through illegal means. They said the defendants were forced into signing the confessions, through threats, pressure, agreements which were not honored, and psychological pressure.

The assertions came during the defense's opening statement in a mini-trial on the admissibility of the confessions.

Jewish Student Journalism Award Announced For 1984

NEW YORK (WNS) — The JDC-Smolar Award for 1984, presented annually to the Jewish student whose published article or story best fosters understanding of world Jewry, was announced by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. The award carries a cash prize of \$1,000.

The announcement said the award, which was established in 1980 in honor of Boris Smolar, editor-in-chief emeritus of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, was "designed to encourage better understanding

within the world Jewish community while giving support to young people entering the field of journalism and to encourage their interest in Jewish subjects and Jewish journalism."

Entries may be articles or stories appearing in Jewish newspapers or magazines appearing during the calendar year 1984 and written by a full or part-time student at an accredited institution of learning. Entries must be postmarked no later than January 31, 1985 and should be mailed to JDC in New York.

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