

Israeli Envoy Gunned Down In Cairo

TEL AVIV (WNS) — Albert Atrakchi, the Israel Embassy Administrative Attache in Cairo, assassinated on his way to work, was buried in the military section of the Kiryat Shaul cemetery here.

Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who spoke at the graveside, said Atrakchi "was a faithful and dedicated servant of the state, like his father Yacov." Atrakchi's father was an Iraqi Jew hanged after the Six-Day War for being a Zionist.

Atrakchi, 30, served in the Israel Defense Forces for 10 years before being posted to Cairo several months ago. He was shot to death while in his car with his wife and the wife of another Embassy diplomat, both of whom were injured. They were driving from their homes in the Mahdi suburb of Cairo to the Embassy.

According to one report, a red Fiat car with three men had been following the diplomat's car. As the Fiat pulled up

alongside the Israelis' car, there was a burst of gunfire from the Fiat, which then sped away from the scene. Seventeen bullets were later found inside the car, and a number of others on the street. Bloodstains were splattered on the front and back seats of the car, and windows were smashed.

Israeli correspondents in Cairo reported that the Egyptian police have been working strenuously and efficiently in the search for Atrakchi's murderers. They have already found the red Fiat, the murder weapon and fingerprints on both. Osana Ali, the owner of the car, has been arrested.

An organization calling itself the "Egyptian Revolution" has claimed responsibility for the attack and

said that it had previously carried out an assault on Zvi Kedat, shot in the hand in Cairo over a year ago in a little-publicized incident. The group said it was carrying out attacks on "agents of the Israeli intelligence service" in Cairo.

The Egyptian government denounced the attack and pledged to do all it could "with regard to this heinous assassination." Mohamed Basyouni, the Egyptian charge d'affaires in Tel Aviv handed Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir a note August 20 from the Egyptian Foreign Minister, Ismet Abdel Maguid, expressing his sorrow and condolences on the death of the Israeli diplomat and the attack on the Israeli women.

Egyptian Tourism Minister Wajih Shindi, who arrived in Israel, said the Egyptian government would spare neither time nor energy to track down the assailants who, he thought, had been intent on sabotaging the Israel-Egyptian peace process which would,

however, unabated.

The U.S. State Department, in expressing its regret at the assassination, said it appears "to be an effort at

continue slowing down, impeding the peace process."

The injured women, Ilana Atrakchi and Mazal Menache, were reported in stable con-

dition after operations at Sheba Hospital in Tel Hashomer. Both women suffered bullet wounds -- Ilana Atrakchi in her cheek, Menache in her chest.

Prayer And Protest



Worship and emotions mix freely at the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry's annual Tisha B'Av prayer service for refuseniks and Prisoners of Conscience at the Russian UN Mission. Famed POC Anatoly Sharansky's wife Avital (r., with kerchief), in the U.S. from Israel to gather Congressional and Administration support, addresses the 400 participants, following a Torah reading. Perm labor camp officials have forbidden Sharansky correspondence or visits from his family in Moscow since April. Photo by Student Struggle For Soviet Jewry, 210 West 91st Street, New York, N.Y. 10024. (212) 799-8900.



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