

Funeral Services Held For 21 Victims Of Istanbul Synagogue Massacre

ISTANBUL (WNS) — Funeral services for the 21 Jews murdered by terrorists while at Sabbath worship in the Neve Shalom synagogue were held in the very same sanctuary where the carnage took place.

The blood stains had been removed. But the walls were charred by the fire set by the killers in an attempt to destroy the bodies of the dead and dying. An aura of death and destruction still hovered over the place and was sensed by the thousand mourners who packed the chamber where normally 400 congregants would constitute a capacity.

They stood pressed together, swaying, weeping and praying. Men and women fainted. There were heart-rending outcries from the spouses and mothers of the victims. Ida Baruch, who had watched from the women's gallery her husband being ripped by bullets, cried out, "Evil men killed my husband in the house of God." Ayal Alzir cried repeatedly, "God, how could you allow that to happen." She had seen both her son, the synagogue cantor, and her grandson die under a hail of machinegun bullets and grenade fragments. Her's was the eternal question of the loved ones of victims. The Sephardic Chief Rabbi of Israel, Mordechai Eliahu, seated on the platform next to Turkey's Chief Rabbi, David Asseo, gave the only answer he knew: "Who can fathom the ways of God?"

There are 5,000 Jewish families in Istanbul and every one was represented at the funeral. Jewish business all over the city had closed long before noon when the services were scheduled to begin. The streets outside the synagogue, normally bustling with commerce, were a solid

mass of humanity.

Mourners came from all over the world. Jewish leaders from Europe, the United States and Israel attended the services, among them Chief Rabbi Rene Sirat of France and the Chief Rabbis of Holland, Sweden and Yugoslavia. There were many diplomats. The U.S. was represented by its Ambassador to Turkey, Robert Strausz-Hupe. The French Ambassador was on hand as was the Israeli Charge d'Affaires from Ankara, Yehuda Millo. Israel and Turkey have diplomatic relations, but not on the Ambassadorial level.

The Turkish authorities were severely shaken by the synagogue attack. Prime Minister Turgut Ozal's government was represented at the funeral by his Interior Minister. The Governor of Istanbul province also attended, accompanied by the Mayor of Istanbul and senior military officers.

Many Christian churches were represented. But the Mufti of Istanbul was not there, nor any other Moslem clergymen. That absence seemed to reflect an opinion prevalent in influential segments of Moslem society and expressed by a rightwing politician who wrote earlier in the week that the massacre did not occur in a house of God because God dwells only in mosques.

Chief Rabbi Asseo officiated at the services,

2 Victims Of Istanbul Synagogue Massacre Buried In Israel

JERUSALEM (WNS) — Funeral rites were held here for two victims of the Istanbul synagogue massacre, Mirza Babtzada and Raphael Nissimia. Both were Israeli citizens who had been on business visits to Turkey.

Sephardic Chief Rabbi Mordechai Eliahu and Religious Affairs Minister Dr. Yosef Burg attended Babtzada's interment, and Ministers Yitzhak Peretz and Moshe Katzav were present at the burial of Nissimia. In graveside remarks, Burg spoke of "revenge as consolation,"

seeming to foreshadow an Israeli reprisal against the terrorists.

Contrary to earlier reports, Burg did not attend the funeral of the other victims in Istanbul. The government in Ankara sought to avoid an Israeli political figure representing the Jewish state. Israel accepted this without public comment, and Rabbi Eliahu went instead of Burg.

Families of the two Israeli victims recounted bureaucratic difficulties in arranging the victims' transfer to Israel for burial. Eventually, they chartered a private plane to bring the bodies.

Temple Emanu-El

Las Vegas, NV

- Serving the southwest part of the Valley.
- Membership now available
- Sisterhood
- Services every Friday nite 8 P.M. Conducted by Gary Golbart, Cantor.



CONSERVATIVE CONGREGATION

For more information call 382-7800

Paul Merchasin, President

DRUGS • SOUVENIRS • GIFTS
U. S. POST OFFICE • NOTARY

PHONE 731-0041

LANDMARK PHARMACY

252 CONVENTION CENTER DR.
LAS VEGAS, NEV. 89109

KEN DANIELS, R. Ph. —OWNER— PHONE (702) 731-0041

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Receptions & Wedding Receptions
Parties • Dances • Birthdays

D J's UNLIMITED

2728 Topaz Ct. • Las Vegas, NV 89121
(702) 457-1614

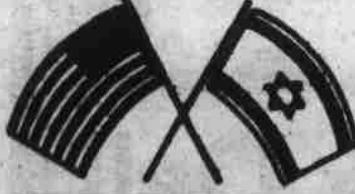
Mobile Disc Jockey
"Music For All Occasions"



RAINBOW SATELLITE

Honesty Integrity Service Competitive Prices

3417 So. Rainbow Blvd.
Rainbow at Spring Mountain
(In the K-Mart-Rainbow/Dunes Centre)
Las Vegas, Nevada 89102
(702) 871-5060



Former Judge AL BECKER
LICENSED ATTORNEY
(Nevada & New York)
205 Bridger St. • 384-9991
(Day Night & Weekends)
CRIMINAL LAW-DRUNK DRIVING
Joint Petition for Divorce
NO COURT APPEARANCE
\$99.75 + FILING FEE

assisted by the five dayanim of the Istanbul Bet Din. A cantor chanted the opening prayers in a clear, grief-stricken voice, interrupted repeatedly by cries of anguish from bereaved mothers and widows.

Services were late in starting because of the crowds and the spontaneous outpouring of grief. When they ended, thousands jammed into cars and buses for the funeral procession. The victims, all Sephardic Jews, were buried at the Ashkenazic cemetery -- except for two visiting Israelis, whose bodies were flown home a day earlier and buried in Jerusalem. The Ashkenazic cemetery was used because there is no room for new graves in the Sephardic cemetery.

The terrorist killers were Arabs, probably Palestinians, and their motivation was hatred of Israel. But Israel was not mentioned in the only speech at the synagogue services. It was delivered by the leader of Istanbul's Jewish community, Jacque Veissid. "They were good Turks and good Turkish Jews," he said of the victims. They were singled out for slaughter because "in today's world, moral values are eroding," he said.

Sephardic Chief Rabbi of Israel Eliahu attended the funeral in place of Israel's Minister for Religious Affairs Yosef Burg. The Turkish authorities refused to admit him for the occasion because they did not want an Israeli political figure attending in an official capacity.

The authorities so far have no clues as to the identity of the killers who blew themselves up with a grenade, or the terrorist group they represented. However, investigators here believe that the terrorists have come from Syria and have a secret hideout in Istanbul pre-arranged by an unnamed embassy which brought their weapons into Turkey some time before.

Senseless Carnage

By Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum

Recently, it was the vicious hijacking of the Pan Am jet at Karachi which resulted in the brutal deaths of 18 innocent civilians, and the wounding of scores of other people. Then the following day, Shabbat morning, more Arabic-speaking terrorists savagely murdered some 21 Jewish worshippers in an Istanbul synagogue.

Both these tragedies have one theme in common -- these murderers have utter contempt for the value of human life. Like the Huns who sacked Rome, they are determined to undermine the foundations of western democratic societies and all nations who cherish life and liberty.

Shortly after the Shabbat massacre occurred, I received a telephone call from the Turkish Embassy in Washington. An official read to me the statement of the Turkish government forthrightly condemning these brutal acts of destruction against their Turkish Jewish citizens. The Turkish official said to me, "Rabbi, these people are not true Muslims, they are plain killers and we are determined to bring them to justice."

The American government has long urged West European and all governments to stop coddling terrorists and deal with them as the criminals they plainly are. These tragedies of Karachi and Istanbul, if they are to be more than senseless carnage, must bring all nations to a firmer resolve to contain this epidemic of violence and hatred before it destroys civilization as we know it.

American Copy Centers

Complete Photocopy, Secretarial & Mail Service
Resume Experts • Notary • Printing
"Your Complete Business & Personal Service Center"
Mail Receiving & Forwarding
Message Service • License Hanging

Since 1976
421 East Carson Avenue (702) 384-1949
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 (702) 382-4712