

NEWS: Montana

ADL active against hate in Whitefish

‘Solidarity and support must triumph over white supremacists’

Andrew Anglin, who runs the white supremacist website Daily Stormer, has for several weeks spearheaded a campaign against members of the Jewish community and supportive businesses in Whitefish, Montana.

ADL is in close contact with the Jewish community, police and FBI

Most recently, he threatened to stage an anti-Semitic armed march in Whitefish on January 16, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Anglin called the event the “James Earl Ray Day Extravaganza.”

James Earl Ray assassinated King in April of 1968.

The ADL has been in close communication with the Jewish community and law enforcement in Whitefish, Montana, as well as the FBI.

ADL and local Jewish leaders urged people from outside of Whitefish not to come to town to stage a counter-protest that would draw additional attention to those that spread hate.

Instead, they focused on the positive response of the people of Whitefish.



SOLIDARITY IN ACTION

ADL Mountain States Director Scott Levin with Rabbi Francine Roston of the Glacier Jewish Community in Whitefish, Mont.

ADL Mountain States Regional Director Scott Levin was in Whitefish the past two weekends. On Jan. 6, Levin attended a rally put

on by local activists, called “Love Not Hate,” which demonstrated that the values of the people of Whitefish and the surrounding Flathead Valley of Montana were in opposition to the supremacists that made vicious attacks on Jews and businesses in the area.

According to Levin, “When people try to divide our communities, we must redouble our efforts to stand in support of one another.”

The march by supremacists in Whitefish did not materialize on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, although they have threatened to march at a later date.

Levin spent his time this past weekend with the Jewish and greater community, thanking them for standing together against hate.

Levin attended Shabbat morn-

ing services and a Matzo Ball Soup Party for the town that was held during the time the marchers had initially announced they would march.

Levin also attended the community’s commemorative event honoring the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. that was sponsored by Love Lives Here, a local human rights organization.

Approximately 600 people were in attendance to hear people of all ages explain their hopes for the future.

“I was pleased to represent ADL and stand with the people of Whitefish to celebrate diversity and to take a stand against anti-Semitism, racism and other forms of oppression,” Levin summed up his time in Montana.

— Scott Levin,
Anti-Defamation League

Policeman, teacher killed in riot

By ANDREW FRIEDMAN

TPS

JERUSALEM — Sergeant Major Erez Levi, a 34-year-old police officer was killed during a riot at the unrecognized Bedouin village of Um Al Hiran. Ya’akub Musa Abu al-Qian, a school teacher who lives in the village was also killed. Several residents and police officers were injured, including MK Ayman Odeh, leader of the Joint List.

Police claim Abu al-Qian was shot in self-defense, after he deliberately rammed his SUV into a group of police officers, fatally hitting Erez Levi. Security sources describe him as a terrorist active in the Islamist Movement.

Adallah, a major civil rights Arab NGO has challenged the accusations, saying he was a teacher with no record of political activism.

The riot broke out early Wednesday, Jan. 18, when a large force of police officers entered the village to implement a court-sanctioned demolition order against an illegally built house in the village.

Residents started attacking the police officers, and a riot broke out, during which al-Qian allegedly rammed police with his car.

As of press time, there are conflicting reports as to the injuries suffered by Odeh. Magen David Adom reported he had been hit by a rock, but media reports indicate he may have been shot with sponge tipped non-lethal bullets. Soroka Hospital said they could not determine the cause of his injuries.

The village has a history of legal battles with the Israeli government and has long been the scene of clashes.

The site was founded by the Abu al-Qian family in 1956 after being resettled to the area by the IDF and the military government at



VIOLENCE

Sgt. Major Erez Levi, 34, was killed during a ramming attack in a Bedouin village in the Negev. Israel Police

the time. According to Regavim, the family numbered approximately 50 people at the time, but has grown more than 500% over the past two decades.

The clan was never given ownership of the land, but the government has offered the group 800 square-meter plots in the nearby city of Houra, a Bedouin town built by the government in 1989 to provide homes for residents of unrecognized villages.

Umm al-Hiran residents have rejected the offer. In 2015 the Supreme Court ruled that the village should be demolished.

In response to the clash, Minister of Public Security Gilad Erdan said the incident was a “tragic event” for Israel.

“A terrorist belonging to the Islamist Movement raced toward our forces in order to kill as many police officers as he could, even prior to the evacuation of the village.”

Erdan also sharply criticized Odeh’s presence there, which Erdan said was intended to incite violence.

“I hope that this day will not become a turning point in relations between the Bedouin and state authorities. But if it does, MK Odeh will have contributed greatly. Government officials and local authorities [of the Bedouin village] have been negotiating for weeks, but MK Ayman Odeh was not party to them. He was only there to inflame passions and incite violence.”

Erdan promised that the Supreme Court decision to demolish the village will be implemented. “Violence and terror will not win over the rule of law,” he said.

Regavim, an Israeli NGO that pursues legal action against construction undertaken without proper Israeli permits, said violence during the evacuation was “the result of incitement by extremist Islamic elements, Arab Knesset members from the Joint List and extreme leftist groups which work day-and-night to disrupt the rule of law in the Negev.”

The NGO urged the Bedouin community to “to move quickly and act against Islamic extremism that has been running rampant over the past few years.”

“We urge the Israeli government and law enforcement authorities to open a criminal investigation [into this incident], to bring the perpetrators to justice, and to continue to enforce the rule of law in the Negev.”

A police spokesman said that security forces started demolishing the illegal buildings at Umm al-Hiran on Wednesday morning.

Security forces are protecting Civil Administration teams, and the work is reportedly proceeding without further disturbances.

Pew: Gap grows between Democrats, GOP on Israel

NEW YORK (JTA) — The difference between the proportion of Republicans and Democrats who sympathize with Israel over the Palestinians is the largest it has been in surveys dating to 1978, according to a new report.

While 74% of Republicans sympathize more with Israel than the Palestinians, the number is 33% for Democrats, according to a Pew Research Center survey conducted Jan. 4-9 and published last week.

Eleven percent of Republicans sympathize with the Palestinians over Israel, and 15% sympathize with neither, both sides or did not express a view. Among Democrats, those numbers were 31% and 35%, respectively.

The findings represent the first time in surveys conducted by the Pew Research Center that Democrats were about as likely to sympathize with the Palestinians as with Israel. Among “liberal Democrats,” 38% of respondents sympathized more with the Palestinians while 26% sympathized more with Israel. The proportion of Republicans

sympathizing more with Israel has risen since 1978 while it has fallen for Democrats. In that year, 49% of Republicans and 44% of Democrats sympathized more with the Jewish state, according to data from the

Democrats now as likely to sympathize with Palestinians as with Israelis

Chicago Council on Foreign Relations obtained by Pew.

A majority of Democrats, 60%, said there is a way for Israel and a Palestinian state to coexist peacefully, while less than half of Republicans, 44%, believed that to be possible, the new Pew survey found.

A higher proportion of Republican and Republican-leaning respondents viewed Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu favorably, 50%, than did their Democratic and Democratic-leaning counterparts, 21%.