

Courts still to decide legality of settlement

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Although the Israeli Supreme Court ordered all but 20 fundamentalist Jewish settlers to leave a Greek Orthodox-owned hospice complex in Jerusalem's Christian Quarter, the issue's resolution has far from ended.

Lower courts must still decide the legality of the lease arrangement under which the settlers moved into the building.

If the only evidence those courts had to consider were public comments from Christian and Jewish leaders in the United States and abroad denouncing the situation, the courts would likely decide against the settlers.

The settlers bought a lease held by an Armenian on property owned by the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem, and 150 settlers moved in April 11. The Israeli government later acknowledged that it secretly provided \$1.8 million to help settlers buy the lease through a Panamanian company.

The presence of Jewish settlers in the Christian Quarter angered and upset many Christians in Jerusalem. On Holy Thursday, police used tear gas and clubs to disperse Arab-Christian demonstrators protesting the occupation. During the protest, Greek Orthodox Patriarch Diodoros I said police pushed him to the ground.

Christians staged a one-day closing of all Christian shrines in Jerusalem, Nazareth and Bethlehem on April 27 to protest the settlement.

Among those shrines closed was the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, built over the spots where Jesus was crucified and buried, which is near the St. John's Hospice complex occupied by the settlers. Christians throughout the world were also invited to pray for the Holy Land April 29.

That day Pope John Paul II said the "grave incidents" in Jerusalem leading to the "painful decision" to close the shrines "are even for me cause for suffering and deep worry."

Jerusalem is holy and dear to Christians, Jews, and Muslims, each of whom have sectors in the city, the pope said. "Let us pray so that everyone has the heart to seek solutions inspired in justice and respect for rights," he said.

In an April 27 letter to Israel's U.S. ambassador, Moshe Arad, Los Angeles Ar-

chbishop Roger M. Mahony said, "Pre-emptive moves which touch the status of Jerusalem and the ancient rights of the various religious communities" hinder Arab-Israeli peace efforts.

"Actions such as the new settlement in the Old City do not contribute to the peace and accord we all hope for," he said.

Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij, a Greek-Orthodox Christian, appealed April 30 in New York for the United States to pressure for the return of the hospice complex to the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

The settlers' occupation, Freij said, was "a very serious premeditated attack against our religious rights."

Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek said in New York May 3 that the settlement was a "great stupidity" and a "grave mistake."

Kollek, who is Jewish, said the move violated pledges given after Jerusalem's reuniting during the 1967 war that the interests of all religious groups would be respected. He added that the 20 settlers allowed to remain were too many.

He said a "gradual infiltration" of Muslims into the Christian Quarter has happened as Christians sell their shops. Kollek said Christians leaving Jerusalem, a trend that started at the beginning of the century, had grown into a "serious problem."

Sholom D. Comay, president of the American Jewish Committee, said the settlement was "unpleasant, untoward and inappropriate," and said he told Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir that the committee viewed the settlement as "a negative happening" that was not good for Israel.



AP/Wide World Photos
DOWNCAST GLANCE — West German President Richard von Weizsäcker (left) lowers his eyes as he walks side-by-side with Polish President Wojciech Jaruzelski (right) through the Nazi concentration camp Treblinka May 3. In the background is a major monument to the millions of victims claimed by the Nazi Holocaust.

Terry greeted with anger in Vermont

By Tricia Hempel
Catholic News Service

BURLINGTON, Vt. — Operation Rescue founder Randall Terry was bombarded with catcalls and verbal confrontation while in Burlington to lend support to pro-life activists jailed since Feb. 21.

At a press conference in Burlington, Terry was greeted by more than 100 abortion-rights demonstrators carrying signs saying "Vermont chooses choice" and "Out of state fascists go home." Only nine of the jailed protesters are believed to be from Vermont.

A street mime wearing clown garb and carrying a cream pie further disrupted the April 24 press conference, but refrained from tossing the pie when police told him he would be charged with assault if he did.

The clown stayed, prompting one man to catcall, "Now there are two clowns in the room."

While in Burlington, Terry addressed two separate, closed meetings — one a gathering of 200 supporters, the other a group of 18 Catholic and Protestant clergy — in an effort to gain support for the jailed protesters.

During the press conference, Terry said he wanted to "speak up for the 95 people who are now incarcerated in Waterbury without bail in their third month."

Waterbury is the site of a state mental hospital where protesters occupy one wing to relieve jail overcrowding. Estimates have placed jailed pro-life protesters at 10 percent of the total Vermont prison population.

Prosecutors have said the protesters have

not been given bail hearings because they identified themselves as "Baby John Doe" or "Baby Jane Doe" upon arrest and have gone limp at previous court appearances.

Asked if Operation Rescue tactics have divided the pro-life movement, Terry said, "I don't believe it for a second. In 1988 Operation Rescue was a key factor in making child-killing an issue once again in the presidential election."

He added, "It also gives people who are still maybe in the middle on the topic, gives them something to think about, why these 95 people are willing to sit in jail week after week — They obviously are doing it because of some great internal conviction."

Terry said, "There is no question that (Operation Rescue) has caused some con-

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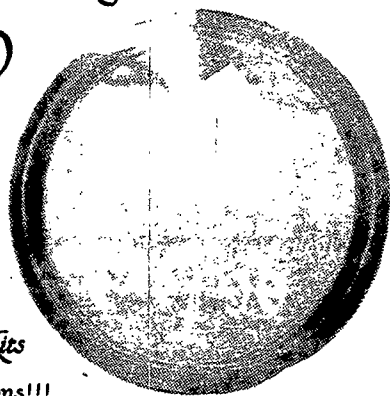
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