

## Alleged Mossad spy arrested in hit-squad case

BERLIN – A Saturday June 12 article in the Washington Post written by Associated Press writer Juergen Baetz reports... An alleged Mossad spy from Israel wanted in connection with the hit-squad slaying of a Hamas agent in Dubai has been arrested in Poland, officials said Saturday.

The man, using the name Uri Brodsky, is suspected of working for Mossad in Germany and helping to issue a fake German passport to a member of the Mossad operation that allegedly killed Hamas agent Mahmoud al-Mabhouh in Dubai in January, a spokesman for the German federal prosecutor's office told The Associated Press.

Brodsky was arrested in early June upon his arrival in Poland because of a European arrest warrant issued by Germany which is now seeking his extradition, the spokesman said, declining to be named in line with department policy.

The spokesman had no estimate of how long it could take for Brodsky to be extradited from Poland to Germany, saying "the matter is now in the hands of the Polish authorities." If Brodsky agrees, the extradition could take a few days, but that isn't likely, the spokesman said.

In Warsaw, Monika Lewandowska, a spokeswoman for Polish prosecutors, confirmed that the suspect, identified only as Uri B., was arrested at the city's international airport on June 4. She told the AP that the arrest warrant was made "in connection with the murder of a Hamas member in Dubai."

The suspect appeared before a Polish court on June 6, and was ordered to remain in temporary arrest for up to 40 days, she said. Lewandowska had no information on his possible extradition.

In Israel, the Foreign Ministry said without elaborating that it was aware of the man's fate. "At the moment, we're looking into that like any other Israeli who has been arrested, and he's getting consular treatment," spokesman Andy David said.

Police in the United Arab Emirates said the elaborate hit squad linked to the Jan. 19 slaying in Dubai of al-Mabhouh - one of the founders of Hamas' military wing - involved some 25 suspects, most of them carrying fake passports from European nations.

Dubai's police chief, Lt. Gen. Dahi Khalfan Tamim, has said he is nearly "100 percent" certain that Mossad, Israel's spy agency, masterminded the killing.

The brazen assault in a luxury hotel and its alleged perpetrators were widely captured by security cameras. Some footage, released by Dubai's police, showed alleged members of the hit squad disguised as tourists, wearing baggy shorts, sneakers and baseball caps, and carrying tennis rackets.

At the time, Israel said it didn't know who was responsible for the killing but welcomed it, claiming al-Mabhouh was a key link in smuggling weapons to Gaza and a possible middleman with Israel's archenemy, Iran.

For Israel, the news about Brodsky's arrest comes at an already difficult time as the country is facing international criticism over its May 31 military raid on a humanitarian flotilla bound for Hamas-ruled Gaza that killed nine people.

The German news weekly Der Spiegel reported that the arrest in Poland already has already led to some diplomatic friction. The Israeli Embassy has urged Polish authorities not to extradite Brodsky, the magazine reports in its issue to be published Monday.

Germany's Foreign Ministry had no comment on the case and referred to an ongoing judicial investigation by the

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## Report of Theft From Polish Jet Bodies

MOSCOW — A June 7 article written by Ellen Barry in the New York Times states... Four Russian soldiers assigned to guard the still-smoldering remains of a Polish airliner and the 96 people who died in the crash collected bank cards that belonged to victims and withdrew funds from their accounts, said Vladimir V. Markin, a spokesman for the Investigative Committee of the Russian general prosecutor.

Russia officially confirmed the crime on Tuesday morning after emphatically denying it over the weekend, when an Interior Ministry spokesman called the allegations "blasphemous and cynical." The four conscripts, who were part of a cordon around the crash site, have been charged with theft by an organized group, Mr. Markin said.

Investigators said the four have admitted their guilt and are cooperating with the inquiry.

Warsaw prosecutors reported on Monday that between one and three hours after the crash, about \$1,700 was withdrawn using a bank card belonging to Andrzej Przewoźnik, a Polish official charged with overseeing war memorials and commemorations, and repeated attempts to withdraw money were made throughout the day.

The theft could taint the atmosphere of cooperation that drew Russia and Poland together in April. Poland's president, Lech Kaczyński, his wife, and dozens of other officials were killed when the plane tried to land in a heavy fog on the way to a ceremony commemorating the massacre of 20,000 Polish officers by Soviet troops during World War II.

An outpouring of compassion from Russian officials — including a spontaneous embrace between Prime Minister Vladimir V. Putin and his Polish counterpart — seemed to end a long chill that had set in between the neighbors.

Investigators said on Tuesday that the suspects took five cards and managed to steal 60,345 rubles, or approximately \$1,890. The four men — identified as Sergei Syrov, Igor Pustovar, Artur Pankratov and Yuri Sankov — were assigned to provide maintenance for the airfield. Russia's Defense Ministry pledged on Tuesday to compensate Mr. Przewoźnik's family.

News of the theft first broke Saturday in Rzeczpospolita, a daily newspaper in Poland. Pawel Gras, a spokesman for the Polish government, said Sunday that three riot police officers had been arrested. Russia's Interior Ministry then issued a statement vehemently denying the account, and noting that Poland's acting president had decorated four Russian officers for their service to Poland.

"In this context, the accusations brought against police officers from Smolensk sound even more blasphemous and cynical," a spokesman said.

It was unclear which government uncovered the thefts. Russia's investigative committee on Tuesday said the soldiers' commanders had informed law enforcement about the discovery of foreign bank cards, and only later heard from Polish investigators that victims' cards had been used. Polish authorities, however, said they had informed their Russian counterparts about the crime on May 21 and Russia undertook an investigation at their request.

It is not the first such prosecution to follow an air disaster in Russia. Two years ago, two police officers in Perm were charged with stealing jewelry from the site of a crash that killed 88 people. Prosecutors said some 3,000 pieces of jewelry collected from the fuselage went missing. The valuables were found a day later at the home of a police officer, who said a colleague had talked him into the theft while they were drinking. □

## General Bieniek to top NATO post

Lt General Mieczyslaw Bieniek is to be deputy commander at NATO headquarters in Norfolk, Virginia, US - the highest position a Pole has attained within the Atlantic alliance.

Defence Minister Bogdan Klich, refused to confirm the position simply however, saying a decision will be made "soon."

The PAP news agency reports that initially, Gen. Mieczyslaw Cieniuch was to fill the post. However, after the death of General Francis Gągor in the Smolensk air disaster General Cieniuch became the new head of the General Staff.

The post of deputy commander at NATO's Allied Command Transformation in Norfolk is a very prestigious position and Poland will share the post with rotation Italy, on a three year rotating basis. Four-star general positions in NATO positions are currently occupied by Americans, British, Germans, French and Italians. Poland will now be the sixth country to occupy a post at this level.

General Mieczyslaw Bieniek has been Poland's representative at NATO's Military Committee. Currently he is a three, not four star general, but by September, when Bieniek take sup his new role the Polish president, who is chief of the armed forces, will issue the general with the missing fourth star.

General Bieniek's career in the Polish armed forces dates back to 1968 when he joined the army as a cadet. By 1985 he rose to commander of the 16th Airborne Battalion in the 6th Airborne Division where he served until 1989. Promoted to Lt Col in 1989, he was appointed as COS and then CO of the Polish Contingent in the Golan Heights in the UNDOF UN Mission where he served until 1991.

January 2007 until August 2007 he became Special Envoy of the SACEUR in AFGHANISTAN where he served as an advisor of the Afghan Minister of Defence. In October 2007 he took office in the Defence Ministry where he served as a senior military advisor.

He is married with four children.

(Polskie Radia - Thenews.pl website) □

## 30th Annual Polish American Day

The Polish National Alliance-Orange County Lodge #3193, an ethnic fraternal organization will be hosting their 30th Annual Polish American Day on Sunday August 01, 2010 at The Pope John Paul II Polish Center-Yorba Linda, California. The Polish Center is located at 3999 Rose Drive just one block south of Imperial Highway. The event will begin with Holy Mass at 10:30AM in the polish language, followed by dancing and entertainment from 1:00pm until 5:00p.m. Gates will open at 12:30PM to the dance hall. Roger and the "Villagers" one of California's finest polka bands will provide music. The Polonia Polish Folk Dance Ensemble will also perform various folk dances from regions of Poland.

Various Booths including Kozłowski Farms from Sonoma County and POLAM Federal Credit Union will be featured. Authentic polish food "the best outside of Poland" will be available prepared by Teresa Turek Catering throughout the day. Donation to the Festival is \$8.00 for adults, senior's \$6.00 children-5 to 12-\$3.00, under 5 free with adult admission.

This event is one of the biggest gatherings of Polish Americans in the West. Come meet your friends and make some new ones. Additional Information – Tony Nowak 951 808-9580, Deloria Schaffer 562-943-8904, Eugenia Carter 951-277-4294, Mary Liss 818-790-7018, or Patty Kobzi 714-998-8222.

w.pna-znp.org/content/events/events.htm

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