



AN Arab-Israeli boy looks over a mosque after it was torched by arsonists in the Bedouin village of Tuba-Zangaria, in northern Israel, on Monday.
MENACHEM KAHANA / AFP/GTTV IMAGES

Jewish leaders condemn mosque arson in Israel

BY JOEL GREENBERG
The Washington Post

JERUSALEM — Arsonists set fire to a mosque in an Arab village in northern Israel early Monday, causing extensive damage and leaving behind graffiti similar to scrawled messages left on mosques in the West Bank that authorities suspect were targeted in recent months by Jewish extremists.

The attack in the village of Tuba-Zangaria set off clashes between villagers and police, who used tear gas to disperse about 200 protesters. The protesting Arabs burned tires and hurled stones at officers, who blocked them as they marched toward a neighborhood Jewish town, a police spokesman said.

The arsonists scrawled on a mosque wall the Hebrew words "price tag" and "revenge," as well as the name "Palmer," referring to a Jewish settler and his infant son, who were killed when their car overturned near the West Bank city of Hebron last month. Police said the driver, Asher Palmer, of Kiryat Arba, was hit in the head by a rock hurled by Palestinian

Related developments

Libyan synagogue: David Gerbi, a Libyan Jewish man who returned from exile in Italy to join the revolution against Moammar Gadhafi, was blocked Monday from trying to restore Tripoli's main synagogue, a day after he broke through the entrance with a sledgehammer to great fanfare. A messenger at the scene warned him, however, that armed men would target him if he did not leave the area. Gerbi said he was told a mass anti-Jewish demonstration was planned for Friday in the capital's central Martyrs' Square. Mustafa Abdul-Jalil, head of the National Transitional Council that is governing the country, said it was too early to worry about rebuilding a synagogue when revolutionary forces were still fighting supporters of fugitive leader Gadhafi.

New Cabinet: Libya's transitional leaders named a new Cabinet on Monday and vowed to step down after the country is secured. Prime Minister Mahmoud Jibril, who graduated from and taught strategic planning at the University of Pittsburgh for several years, remains in his position but also takes over as foreign minister. Ali al-Tarhouni, who taught economics at the University of Washington in Seattle, will continue acting as oil minister until the National Oil Company is ready to take over.

Syrian arrests: The Syrian government said Monday that it had arrested dozens of people in a central Syrian region that has become a flash point in fighting between defectors and security forces waging a brutal crackdown on a six-month uprising against President Bashar Assad. The government Monday accused what it called terrorist attackers of killing the son of a prominent Sunni Muslim cleric and said it had discovered a large number of weapons near the Turkish border. Grand Mufti Ahmad Badreddine Hassoun's 21-year-old