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me

job

self-employed

Interests

justice, human rights, social justice

About Me:

I am 32 years old and very committed to social justice, outreach to others, blogging.

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<http://windowintopalestine.blogspot.com>

date of birth

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how did you know about Palestinian Mothers Network?

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EXHIBIT 2

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Window Into Palestine

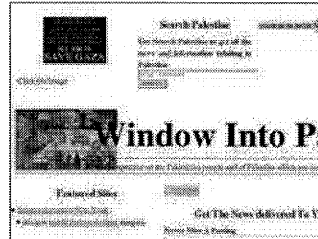
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EXHIBIT 4

EXHIBIT 4

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Four accused of extorting money from kiosk operators

Israelis linked to Ecstasy trafficking in Las Vegas

By JEFF GERMAN
LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

A federal indictment charging four men with trying to extort money from outlet mall kiosk operators has brought to light the heightened activities of the much-feared Israeli mob in Las Vegas.

Among those charged in the April 27 indictment is Israeli-born Moshe Barmuha, a 37-year-old Southern California man whom law enforcement authorities have linked to a violent Israeli crime syndicate.

The kiosk operators, two Israeli-born Las Vegas businessmen, each told authorities separately that they believed Barmuha was a member of an Israeli crime family, according to a federal criminal complaint associated with the indictment.

Authorities revealed in the complaint that Barmuha has a lengthy criminal history in Israel that includes convictions for drug trafficking, burglary, battery on a police officer and causing intentional injury with a pipe bomb. Barmuha's lower right arm was amputated after the bomb prematurely exploded underneath a rival's car, the complaint said.

Authorities said Barmuha's appearance in Las Vegas is a sign that the Israeli mob has kept its grip on street rackets, despite a federal crackdown seven years ago.

"We've seen an increase in their presence in the last few years," said Las Vegas police Capt. Al Salinas, who runs the Organized Crime Bureau. "They're definitely on the radar. We're always working with our federal partners to get some strong, solid cases on these folks."

Much like the once-powerful La Cosa Nostra, Israeli crime families are known for committing acts of violence. Rival syndicates in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv fought for years, leaving a trail of blood all over Israel.

In this country, the crime families are involved in traditional rackets, such as loan-sharking, extortion, money laundering, prostitution and illegal gambling, authorities said.

But what sets them apart from other organized criminals is that their activities in Las Vegas and elsewhere in the country evolve from lucrative illegal trafficking in the club drug Ecstasy, Salinas said.

Israeli hoodlums import about 75 percent of Las Vegas' Ecstasy, which is popular on the Strip nightclub scene, now one of the biggest adult playgrounds in the world, Salinas explained.

In 2003, as part of an investigation coordinated out of Los Angeles, where most of the Israeli crime figures in the West live, Drug Enforcement Administration agents in Las Vegas uncovered the first evidence of the mob's local operations.

With the help of court-approved wiretaps at, among other places, the Las Vegas home of one of the crime family members, agents documented efforts to extort cash from a Beverly Hills luxury car dealer, launder money through Miami lawyers and set up drug deals from here in various parts of the world, including Belgium, a haven for Ecstasy distribution.

At the same time, agents observed some crime family members living it up like high rollers on the Strip.

Israeli mob leaders targeted in the investigation were later indicted in the spring of 2004 on extortion and money laundering charges in Los Angeles.

Since then, however, as some of the defendants went to prison and others cooperated with the government, law enforcement authorities have reported little Israeli mob activity in Las Vegas -- until last month's extortion indictment. Barmuha's name did not surface in the earlier investigation here.

Local businessmen Moshe "Moshiko" Ozana and Moshe "Chiko" Karmi found out firsthand what it's like dealing with someone of Barmuha's reputation. The two business partners sell small electronics and cosmetics in kiosks at local casinos and outlet malls, authorities said.

Other than their initials, the identities of Ozana and Karmi were not disclosed in last month's six-count extortion indictment, which also charges Barmuha and his co-defendants with racketeering. But their names were made public in the federal complaint, which lays out the alleged extortion scheme.

According to the complaint, filed by Peter Lazaro, a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent, Barmuha became involved in a dispute last year between Ozana and Karmi and one of their former partners, Yakov Cohen, over a cosmetic kiosk operation.

Cohen 24, of Las Vegas, claimed he was owed thousands of dollars.

Cohen has been charged in the extortion scheme with Barmuha, along with two Russian-born brothers, Ruslan Magomedgadzhiev, 30, and Murad Magomedgadzhiev, 26, both of Southern California. All four men are in federal custody.

Las Vegas police learned about the plot from retired detective Robert Allen, who had given Ozana a polygraph test. Ozana took the test to try to prove his innocence to Cohen and Barmuha, whom he claimed were trying to strong-arm him, according to the complaint.

Allen told police that Ozana had alleged he and his partner were threatened by Barmuha, whom Ozana believed to be "a high-ranking member of an Israeli organized crime family," Lazaro wrote in his complaint.

Las Vegas intelligence detectives and Los Angeles detectives familiar with Barmuha launched an investigation that eventually included federal authorities, among them Lazaro at ICE, which declined to comment on the case.

In a September phone conversation between Ozana in Israel and Barmuha in California, Barmuha was particularly graphic when talking about a threat to Karmi, Lazaro wrote.

"Ozana stated that Barmuha stated that 'he was going to kill him, chop him up, cut him up like

wood and take his fingers out," Lazaro wrote in the complaint.

Then, as Barmuha continued to scream at Ozana, Barmuha said, "You don't know who you're dealing with."

A month later, the agent wrote, Barmuha came to Las Vegas to meet with Ozana, who by this time was so rattled by Barmuha's words that he refused to sit down with Barmuha in his room at the Palazzo. Ozana wanted to meet in a public area of the resort.

As the dispute festered, Barmuha threatened Ozana, and in December Ozana found a white rose at the entrance to his home with a note attached that read: "Warm regards from a friend, Moshe B."

Lazaro wrote that Ozana saw the white rose as a "threat of death."

Karmi also received threatening notes from Barmuha, the complaint alleged.

Lazaro reported one note read: "Moshe, it's Barmuha again. Don't try to evade me, and I don't think your partners and your friends can protect you. I suggest you make contact and come to a meeting."

In another note, Barmuha allegedly wrote, "I will find you in the end. Don't worry."

Lazaro wrote that Barmuha left a final note for Karmi with no words, just a circle with a cross inside, indicating a rifle scope.

After he received the last note, Lazaro said, a frightened Karmi went to police and sought protection, but an officer told him the notes themselves were not a crime. The officer told Karmi to buy a gun, which he ended up doing.

In January, the Russian brothers assaulted Karmi near his home, the complaint alleged. While he was being beaten, Karmi pulled out a revolver and fired one shot, causing his assailants to flee. As they ran away, Karmi fired another shot that hit one of his attackers in the buttocks.

"Karmi remains very afraid of Barmuha and is currently in hiding in fear of his safety," Lazaro wrote.

Throughout the ordeal, suspected Israeli crime syndicate associates, some known to Ozana and Karmi, also contacted the two men on Barmuha's behalf, hoping to persuade them to pay Barmuha and Cohen the thousands of dollars they claimed they were owed, the complaint said.

In March, a cooperating government witness secretly recorded a conversation with Cohen discussing Barmuha's reputed Israeli mob ties.

Later that month, Ozana recorded a conversation with Cohen and turned it over to authorities.

"Ozana asked Cohen why he brought the Mafia in to settle the dispute," the complaint alleged.

In response, Cohen replied: "It's not like I went to him (Barmuha) and told him everything. He heard that I got screwed over. He came to Vegas. He sat down. He talked to me. I told him the story and then he offered ... to sit down and talk to you guys and clear everything out. That's what he offered. So that person is offering me nicely. I cannot control him even though he is my friend."

Barmuha's Los Angeles lawyer, David Kenner, who has represented suspected Israeli crime figures in the past, did not return phone calls.

Cohen's Las Vegas attorney, David Chesnoff, who also has defended reputed Israeli mobsters, described Cohen as a "24-year-old businessman with no criminal history whatsoever."

Chesnoff said Cohen also has no history of any mob connections.

At a detention hearing in federal court last week , prosecutors persuaded U.S. Magistrate Judge Robert Johnston to hold off on releasing Cohen from federal custody until he provides more information about his finances.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Kimberly Frayn said Cohen failed to tell authorities that, for months before his arrest, he was consistently withdrawing money from a \$4 million bank account in amounts under \$10,000.

She accused Cohen of showing "signs of deceit" in not disclosing the account.

Contact Jeff German at jgerman@reviewjournal.com or 702-380-8135.

Find this article at:

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EXHIBIT 5

EXHIBIT 5

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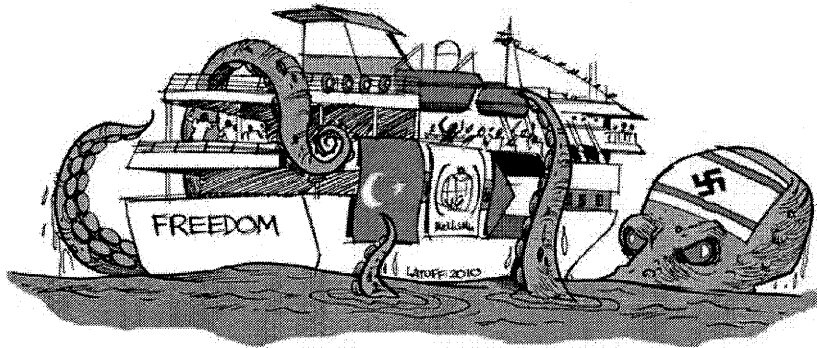
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Much like the once-powerful La Cosa Nostra, Israeli crime families are known for committing acts of violence. Rival syndicates in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv fought for years, leaving a trail of blood all over Israel.

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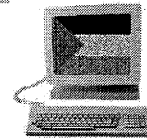
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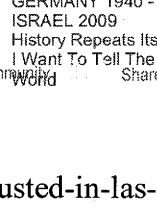
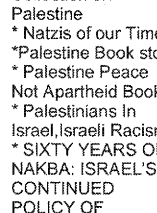
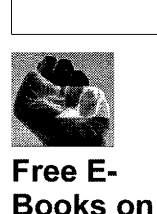
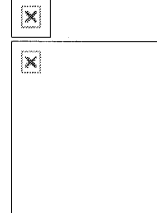
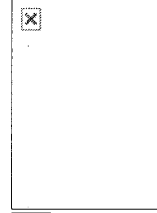
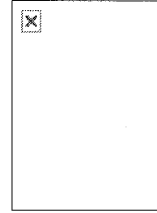
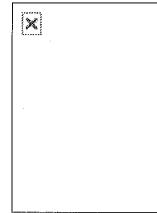
Lazaro reported one note read: "Moshe, it's Barmuha again. Don't try to evade me, and I don't think your partners and your friends can protect you. I suggest you make contact and come to a meeting."

In another note, Barmuha allegedly wrote, "I will find you in the end. Don't worry."

Lazaro wrote that Barmuha left a final note for Karmi with no words, just a circle with a cross inside, indicating a rifle scope.

After he received the last note, Lazaro said, a frightened Karmi went to police and sought protection, but an officer told him the notes themselves were not a crime. The officer told Karmi to buy a gun, which he ended up doing.

In January, the Russian brothers assaulted Karmi near his home, the complaint alleged. While he was being beaten, Karmi pulled out a revolver and fired one shot, causing his assailants to flee. As they



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ran away, Karmi fired another shot that hit one of his attackers in the buttocks.

"Karmi remains very afraid of Barmuha and is currently in hiding in fear of his safety," Lazaro wrote.

Throughout the ordeal, suspected Israeli crime syndicate associates, some known to Ozana and Karmi, also contacted the two men on Barmuha's behalf, hoping to persuade them to pay Barmuha and Cohen the thousands of dollars they claimed they were owed, the complaint said.

In March, a cooperating government witness secretly recorded a conversation with Cohen discussing Barmuha's reputed Israeli mob ties.

Later that month, Ozana recorded a conversation with Cohen and turned it over to authorities.

"Ozana asked Cohen why he brought the Mafia in to settle the dispute," the complaint alleged.

In response, Cohen replied: "It's not like I went to him (Barmuha) and told him everything. He heard that I got screwed over. He came to Vegas. He sat down. He talked to me. I told him the story and then he offered ... to sit down and talk to you guys and clear everything out. That's what he offered. So that person is offering me nicely. I cannot control him even though he is my friend."

Barmuha's Los Angeles lawyer, David Kenner, who has represented suspected Israeli crime figures in the past, did not return phone calls. Cohen's Las Vegas attorney, David Chesnoff, who also has defended reputed Israeli mobsters, described Cohen as a "24-year-old businessman with no criminal history whatsoever."

Chesnoff said Cohen also has no history of any mob connections. At a detention hearing in federal court last week, prosecutors persuaded U.S. Magistrate Judge Robert Johnston to hold off on releasing Cohen from federal custody until he provides more information about his finances.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Kimberly Frayn said Cohen failed to tell authorities that, for months before his arrest, he was consistently withdrawing money from a \$4 million bank account in amounts under \$10,000.

She accused Cohen of showing "signs of deceit" in not disclosing the account.

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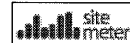
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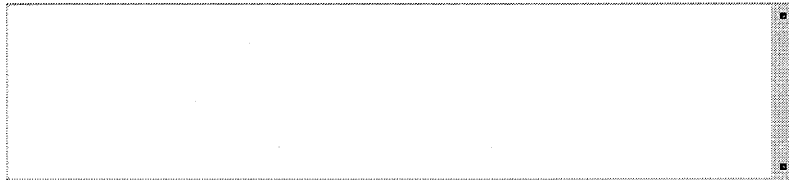
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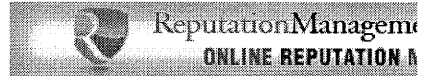
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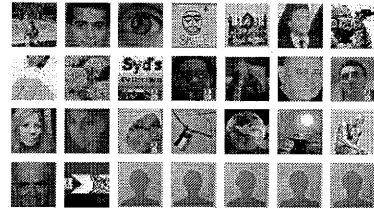
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