

# ADL caught spying on 12,000 Americans

by Jeffrey Steinberg

At a Feb. 11 hearing in California Superior Court before Judge Leonard Louie, a San Francisco District Attorney revealed that the raid last December on Anti-Defamation League offices in San Francisco and Los Angeles and the homes of two ADL-linked individuals had turned up files containing sensitive personal data on over 12,000 American citizens and organizations. The ADL, with longstanding ties to organized crime and to Israeli intelligence agencies, is ostensibly a tax-exempt civil rights group explicitly forbidden from engaging in the kinds of activities it now stands accused of conducting.

Assistant District Attorney Tom Dwyer further revealed in open court that among those under surveillance by the ADL network was an Arab-American from Chicago who was arrested by Israeli police on Jan. 25, 1993.

That individual, naturalized American citizen Mohammed Jarad, is still being held by Israeli police on charges that he was a funder of the Islamicist group Hamas. Jarad's wife gave a press conference in Washington, D.C. shortly after his arrest, denying that he had any ties to Hamas. A U.S. resident for over 20 years, Jarad owns a grocery store in Chicago. He was visiting relatives in the West Bank when he was grabbed by Israeli police. His arrest, along with another Chicago area man, prompted protests from the U.S. Embassy in Israel, which was not informed about the detention of two American citizens for several days.

These new revelations about illegal spying by the ADL and their suspected link to Israeli intelligence have sparked another round of loud protests from Arab-American groups. Audrey Shabbas, the head of an Arab-American group in Berkeley, California, told the *San Francisco Examiner* that it "doesn't surprise us at all" to find the San Francisco spy case intersecting the arrests in the West Bank. "With the arrest of Arab-Americans in Israel, we said it must be with information from the ADL."

The Dec. 10 raids that produced the files came as part of a probe into San Francisco Police Inspector Tom Gerard, who was accused of accepting more than \$20,000 from "a South African agent" to pass on classified police files on Arab-Americans, members of the Nation of Islam, and a number of right-wing groups. Those files were believed to have been laundered through the Bay Area office of the ADL.

The so-called South African agent was later identified as

Roy Bullock, a San Francisco-based unlicensed private eye and self-described art dealer who has been on the ADL's payroll for a decade. According to sources close to the police probe, the bulk of the 12,000 dossiers seized in the raids was found in the search of Bullock's residence. The fact that some of the files seized deal with individuals outside the Bay Area conforms to Bullock's profile as a nationally deployed undercover operator for the ADL. According to several persons familiar with Bullock's activities during the 1980s, he periodically showed up in Washington, D.C. to attend national Arab-American conventions and other events. He always carried a large wad of cash and regularly made the rounds of groups on the ADL's "hate list."

## ADL broke the law

At the public hearing on Feb. 11, the ADL's local attorney, Jerrold Ladar, implicitly admitted that the raids on the two ADL offices had turned up government records, including Department of Motor Vehicles data that cannot be legally obtained by private groups. The hearing was convened by the DA after Arab-Americans voiced concern that they might be arrested during an upcoming Christian holiday trip to Israel.

In court papers filed at the Feb. 11 hearing, the ADL "adamantly denied that it has ever acted as a conduit for information to any foreign government, or that information contained in its documents would jeopardize the personal safety of those seeking disclosure. Nor is there a basis for the implicit assertion that private ADL documents were communicated to Israel and that as a result the lives of Arab-Americans are threatened."

Court records obtained by *EIR* indicate that the ADL was lying outright in this sworn assertion. As early as July 7, 1961, then-ADL Executive Director Ben Epstein had written to B'nai B'rith official Saul Jofte: "As you know, the Anti-Defamation League for many years has maintained a very important, confidential investigative coverage of Arab activities and propaganda. . . . In order to obtain complete and thorough data on these activities, we must follow the Arab diplomatic corps in their political efforts, lobbying activities, and propaganda programs. . . . Our information, in addition to being essential for our own operations, has been of great value to both the United States State Department and the Israeli government. All data have been made available to both countries with full knowledge to each that we were the sources."

Washington, D.C. sources have alerted *EIR* to the current activities of Israeli Gen. Shimon Erem (ret.), who served for a period of time as the Israeli Consul General in Los Angeles, and who is now reportedly in charge of monitoring Arab activities on the west coast. Erem just returned to Los Angeles from Israel, according to these sources, where he reportedly reviewed, among other things, the potential damage brought about by the San Francisco Gerard-Bullock-ADL scandal.