

JN UK NEWS

Horovitz warning

A TOP Israeli journalist has warned of a repeat in the climate of unease felt by UK Jews last summer and urged the community to do everything it can to raise awareness of the threats faced by the country.

David Horovitz, the founding editor of *Times of Israel*, was reflecting on the exodus of French Jews to Israel during a wide-ranging address to UJIA's annual dinner at the Grosvenor House Hotel. He said: "The climate here will not get easier. Partly because Israel will be dragged into more wars we don't want. Hamas is rearming, Hezbollah has 10 times more missiles than Hamas ever had. When Iran deems the moment right we will be dragged into another conflict."

Addressing more than 800 guests UJIA chairman Bill Benjamin warned: "We are worried about the political and cultural atmosphere where we are uncomfortable expressing pride at being Jewish and unflagging support for Israel."

£40m Olympic 'Ponzi fraud'

THREE "FRAUDSTERS" duped their own families and friends with fake contracts from the London Olympics in order to fund a lavish lifestyle of yachts, Bentleys and million-pound mansions, a court has heard.

Spencer Mitchell Steinberg, 45, of Lodge End in Radlett, Hertfordshire, and Michael Strubel, 53, of Royal Drive, New Southgate, deny conspiring to defraud investors. Jan Marc Saunders, 39, of Almonds, Avenue, Buckhurst Hill, has pleaded guilty.

The men lied to investors in their companies, including an electrical wholesaler, which they said had won a huge contract to supply goods such as irons and trouser presses to the Olympic Village ahead of the 2012 Games, jurors heard.

"The defendants persuaded people to part with their money on the promise they



Accused: Spencer Steinberg

were going to invest it for them in a good, profitable business, then effectively pocked the money themselves," said Prosecutor Sarah Forshaw.

"It made them rich, rich at the expense of people they defrauded. You will hear about

Bentleys, Ferraris, Porsches, Rolls Royces, yachts and million pound houses."

The court heard how the men set up a £40million Ponzi scheme, of the sort made famous by now-jailed American Jewish fraudster Bernie Maddoff, who conned his clients out of billions of dollars.

The men invited people to invest their cash for up to two months. After earning good interest in this time, investors were then persuaded to "roll their money over" for another two months and to tell their friends to get involved, said Ms Forshaw.

The men first came to court in 2013, after an investigation by the Serious Fraud Office and the Serious Organised Crime Agency, which looked at their activities between 2006 and 2010. Their trial is expected to last two months.

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FORMER *JEWISH NEWS* intern Honey Fine and her band, Mon Amie, have made it through the first round of ITV's *X Factor* bootcamp. The talented 20-year-old from Bushey, who attended Hertsmere Jewish Primary and Yavneh College said she was "loving the roller-coaster ride", with judge Simon Cowell saying he was "really impressed by them".



Honey [left] with Mon Amie

Council to discuss plans for new eruv covering Brent and Camden

COUNCIL PLANNERS are this week due to discuss proposals for a religious boundary taking in parts of Camden and Brent.

The Brondesbury eruv, which has had dozens of objections, would link West Hampstead, Swiss Cottage, Kilburn and Fortune Green, running from Kilburn High

Road and Minster Road across to Canfield Gardens in South Hampstead and St John's Court in Finchley Road. Eruvs mark areas with poles and fishing wire, within which Orthodox Jews can carry out certain activities banned on Shabbat, such as pushing a trolley or pram, carrying shopping or

keys or pushing a wheelchair.

Camden Council's Development Control Committee will meet on Thursday to discuss the proposals, one year after they were first submitted by Brondesbury Park Synagogue, whose members have said they are virtually "house-bound" during Shabbat.



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