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ACID ATTACK



BRITISH POLICE JOIN THE HUNT

New hope for Katie and Kirstie as Zanzibar finally asks UK cops to help catch their evil attackers

BY SHARON FEINSTEIN

EXCLUSIVE

THERE WAS fresh hope this week for the families of two teenage girls attacked with acid in Zanzibar last year, as the African island paved the way for British detectives to help catch the perpetrators.

Six months after two men on a scooter threw sulphuric acid over friends Kirstie Trup (pictured top left) and Katie Gee (top right) as they walked through the streets of Stone Town, Zanzibar authorities have finally issued a letter of assistance, allowing UK police to join the investigation.

Kirstie's father, Marc Trup, hailed this latest development as "a big step".

He told the *Jewish News*: "The police situation is a bit like the Madeleine McCann case, but Zanzibar isn't like a European country so we've had to wait a long time for this development. The Foreign Office had to put pressure on the Zanzibar authorities, for which I'm grateful. We hope the document will be here in the next month."

Marc's frustration over a lack of progress in the case led to him considering going to Zanzibar himself to track down the culprits. He said: "I thought of flying out there and putting up a reward, but the Foreign Office warned me this wasn't advisable. We want these people captured. If there is a court case and identification parade there is no question Kirstie would want to be there. I feel very angry with these people, yet I am

absolutely powerless to do anything. Up to now, we have been dealing with a local police authority that does things in its own time - if at all."

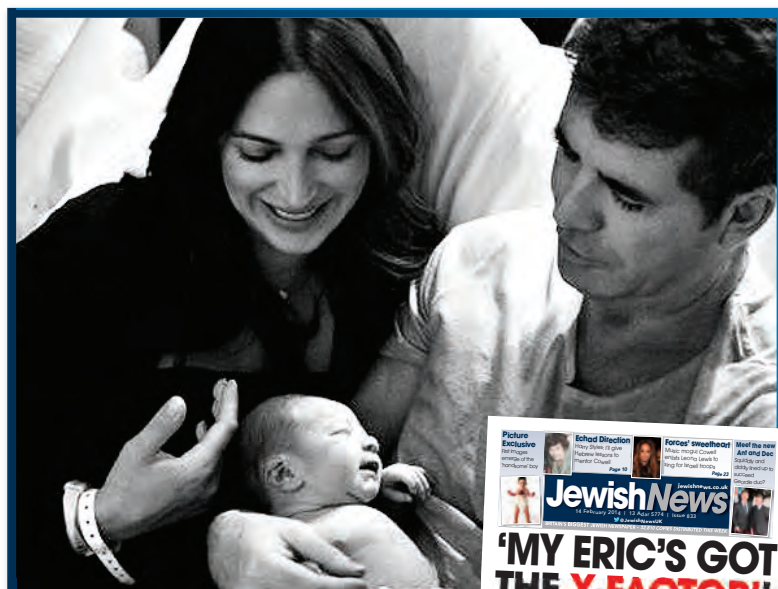
Kirstie, who suffered chemical burns to her shoulders and back in the attack, is still recovering following skin grafts. She must wear a pressure vest to protect procedures on her upper body, arms and sides.

Marc said: "It's very uncomfortable and itchy. But it's healing. There are no further operations. The injuries will get better over time, but will mark her for life. The scar tissue can't be seen unless she wears sleeveless tops."

Katie sustained more serious injuries to her face, hands and chest.

Six months on and her family is still coming to terms with the horrific attack that took place on the island on 7 August.

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Eric's JN front page!

Simon Cowell this week said he "never knew so much love and pride" after welcoming his new baby with girlfriend Lauren Silverman. Tender photographs posted on Twitter showed the music mogul settling into life as a first-time father after his boy arrived. *Continued on page 3*



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Cam's Israel trip

DAVID CAMERON and Benjamin Netanyahu have agreed to coordinate on a new date for the British leader's visit to Israel.

The trip, which had been due to take place this week, was postponed in order for Cameron to lead the Government's response to the UK flooding crisis.

Following a phone conversation, Netanyahu's Facebook page also said the Israeli premier "offered assistance in dealing with the storms".

New Board chief

THE BOARD of Deputies this week launched a search for a new chief executive.

The role is being advertised at circa £100,000 and comes 10 months after the departure of Jon Benjamin, who had occupied the hotseat for eight years. The representative body said the chief executive "will have the opportunity to shape the agenda for the community at a time of change".

Andrea Kelmanson, appointed as interim chief operations officer, is expected to stay on until a chief executive is in place.

Casino site hacked

AMERICAN CASINO giant Las Vegas Sands has restored its websites a week after being hacked.

The company pulled down its sites last Thursday, after hackers defaced them with images condemning comments made by chief executive Sheldon Adelson about using nuclear weapons on Iran. It restored the sites on Monday afternoon. The hacking affected its corporate website, as well as sites for casinos in China, Singapore, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania and Las Vegas.

European 'manifesto' to outline Jewish concerns

A EUROPEAN Jewish manifesto listing "key Jewish aspirations" has been launched ahead of elections to the European Parliament on 22 May.

Authors of the Board of Deputies document say it aims to "inform existing and prospective Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) about Jewish interests and concerns".

"We hope it will help to 'get the vote out' among the Jewish community and negate the influence of the far right," a statement said. "High voter turnout is important to ensure extremist parties do not make ground in elections."

The 15-page manifesto – drawn up in conjunction with other European Jewish groups – covers religious freedoms, anti-Semitism, EU-Israel relations and Holocaust studies.

The document asks politicians to commit to support Israel by opposing boycotts, raising concerns about Iran and encourage trade with the EU. They are also asked to defend *shechita*, *brit milah* and "an individual's right to wear religious symbols and observe religious festivals and the Jewish Sabbath".



The manifesto for MEPs has been launched ahead of May's European elections

Moshe Kantor of the European Jewish Congress said: "It will encourage Jewish citizens in the EU to take part in the democratic process... We cannot complain afterwards if we do not use the rights we possess."

Board President Vivian Wineman

said: "This is the first such manifesto produced by a Jewish community for the European elections and will be used to enfranchise local communities, with regional communal leaders using the document to speak directly to MEP candidates about the issues."

UK cops to hunt acid attackers



Continued from page 1

Marc said: "The girls had eaten Chinese food every night, but walked past their favourite restaurant to a Kenyan restaurant. Had they gone to their usual place, the attack wouldn't have happened."

He added: "The incident was not motivated by them being Jewish. They knew they were going to a Muslim country and were always respectful of the traditions. What made these people do it? Maybe I'll never know but that's not going to tear me apart. I can't live like that."

"Kirstie (pictured above as a young girl with her brothers Josh and Saul) could've fallen apart so easily, but she hasn't. She's enjoyed a sheltered life in north-west London and attending JFS. She's never known anything like this."

In a shocking coincidence, Marc revealed that his younger brother, Daniel – Kirstie's uncle – narrowly escaped death in Africa just one month after the acid attack, when he was caught up in the Westgate Kenya mall terrorist attack.

"He was walking out of a café in the mall when the terrorists burst in tossing grenades and firing indiscriminately. He hid in a cupboard for hours with his wife and six-year-old son. The fact that Kirstie and her uncle were attacked in Africa within one month of each other is mind-boggling."

Despite her ordeal, Kirstie, who is studying history at university, plans to return to Africa later this year to work with children in a Johannesburg township. Marc said: "I think we should keep away from Africa, but Kirstie wants to go to South Africa and we can't stop her."

Little Eric is already front page news

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"healthy and handsome" last Friday in New York.

And as Jewish fans on both sides of the pond wondered whether there would be a brit this weekend, Jewish News sent Cowell a kippah with the words 'Baby's Got Talent' – provided

by Creative Kippot (pictured right) – as well as a specially-created front page as a gift to mark the simcha. Its main story covers the fact that the X-Factor creator paid a touching tribute to his Jewish father Eric by naming the tot after him, while it also features

spoof stories including one speculating that Cowell is to launch a 'Rabbi Idol' contest to select a rabbi to officiate at his son's barmitzva.

The 54-year-old flew from London to New York after receiving news that Lauren had gone into labour.



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