

... AS FEUD BETWEEN GROUPS TURNS VIOLENT

# in East Village siege

## A Jewish militant gives up after 2 hrs.

By LARRY CELONA and  
PATRICE O'SHAUGHNESSY

Daily News Staff Writers

The leader of a militant Jewish group, who said he feared someone was going to kill him, fired an assault rifle from the rooftop of an East Village building yesterday, police said, wounding a bystander and holding the neighborhood under siege for more than two hours before giving himself up.

Mordechai Levy, 27, president of the Jewish Defense Organization, surrendered to cops at 2:50 p.m.

Police said the incident began at 12:26, when Irwin Rubin, national director of the Jewish Defense League, and two other men went to a building on Bleecker St. that is Levy's home and JDO headquarters. The three men sought to serve Levy with civil court papers concerning a libel suit Rubin filed against Levy. The JDO and JDL are embroiled in an ongoing feud, police said.

### Levy taunted

The three men were throwing rocks up at a window, and a witness said they were taunting Levy to "come down here, we have something for you."

Police said Levy ran to the roof of the three-story building and fired two shots with a Ruger Mini-14 rifle, then fired four more shots. One struck Dominic Spinelli, 69, in the left knee, as he sat in his company's van.

Melissa Smith, 20, who lives directly across the street, said: "I was about to close the window and someone started shooting and a guy was yelling 'help me.' I heard two shots, then more shooting and someone saying 'I'm gonna blow your f--- head off.'"

### 'He was very upset'

After firing the shots, Levy went back inside the building. The block was sealed off, residents were ordered to stay inside and traffic came to a standstill as scores of cops flooded the area.



COPS BEHIND SHIELD during a siege on Bleecker St., East Village, yesterday. Leader of militant Jewish group shot a bystander in the incident.

CLARENCE DAVIS DAILY NEWS

A hostage negotiating team spoke with Levy by phone. "He was very upset," said Lt. Hugh McGowan. "We tried to assure him that no one would hurt him.... He said people wanted to hurt him and we

tried to take his mind off them."

After a 10-minute conversation, Levy walked out of his apartment. Chief of Department Robert Johnston Jr. said Levy probably would face attempted murder charges.

Johnston said Levy called 911 Wednesday night, saying people were trying to kill him, and then at 12:15 p.m. yesterday, he called detectives at the East Fifth St. stationhouse and said the same thing.

As the short, bearded Levy walked into the stationhouse yesterday, he said: "They came to my building with guns.... They were going to kill me."

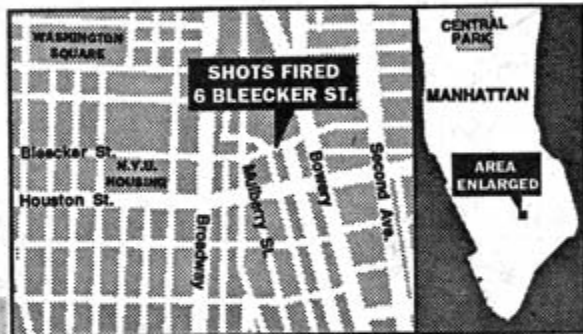
Spinelli, a contractor from Brooklyn, was in good condition at St. Vincent's Hospital.

Police said Levy, an outspoken activist who urges people to carry guns, has a permit for a semi-automatic rifle, two shotguns and four rifles, but not for the Ruger. Johnston said the building

had a surveillance camera and a remote-control tear gas dispenser in the entrance hallway.

Lt. David Nadel said Levy left the JDO seven or eight years ago, "not on good terms," to form his own, more militant group.

An answering machine at the JDO's number gives out the home telephone number of black activist Rev. Al Sharpton, and urges callers to "give him a piece of your mind.... Let's do all we can to destroy the Jew-hater."



BOB MURRAY DAILY NEWS

**'They came to my building with guns.... They were going to kill me.'**

Mordechai Levy