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Appalling Accounts

by Tom / *The Palestine Monitor*

Saturday, march 30 - This has been the second day of the appalling war against the Palestinian civilian population in the West Bank and the first day of attacks, siege and curfews also in areas located in the Betlehem province. Throughout the whole day, thousands of new soldiers were deployed inside Ramallah and, as we write, even more are heading towards the already besieged and occupied city. The Israeli army has placed snipers on the top of every high building and across the town a total curfew has been enforced. Hence, no one is able or willing to leave the houses or dwellings they find themselves in.

Since yesterday and up to now five members of the Palestinian Police on duty were assassinated – without any gunfire or display of resistance whatsoever – and their corpses were left to decompose and were found by chance today. The Arab Care Hospital was attacked and was searched with trained dogs. The only two ambulances available were confiscated by the Israelis (one yesterday at 10 p m and the second was confiscated today at 11:15 am along with its driver, Mr. Mahad al-Qadi, who, at the time of writing, is still under Israeli detention. We have been receiving alarming news about Is-



Map of the West bank

raeli soldiers using the ambulances in their raids against Palestinians.

Since yesterday the occupier soldiers have been carrying out house-to-house searches. Whenever they enter a house they make sure utmost possible material damage is accomplished (destroying all furniture, fixtures and ransacking all belongings) not to mention psychological trauma and damage. Soldiers were reported to widely having resorted to stealing money and mobile handsets. Several witnesses are available and are willing to make further formal complaints as well as wish to present their cases to appropriated legal prosecutorial bodies as soon as the situation provides for.

Soldiers took control of the local TV station and since then have been broadcasting racist material with anti-Arab contents and also pornographic videos. The overall mood is of despair and apprehension and Palestinians feel completely vulnerable. Today scores of women, together with international grass-root solidarity teams tried to demonstrate in the center of the

Arafat under siege

by IMC Print

On Friday March 29th Israeli troops invaded the city of Ramallah in Palestine and surrounded the presidential compound where the Palestine leader Yasser Arafat resides. Israeli tanks rampaged through Ramallah before they reached the complex. At this moment the elected Palestine leader is surrounded by Israeli soldiers and has lost access to water, electricity or communications. Two of his security guards are injured because of the constant shooting by the Israeli Defence Force (IDF).

The whole city of Ramallah meanwhile has been taken over by Israeli troops, houses were raided and around 145 people were arrested. There are also tanks at the city of Beit Jala, which is between Betlehem and

Jerusalem.

The Israeli attack started after the suicide attack that killed 22 people last Wednesday. Friday a 18 year old girl from Palestine committed another suicide attack in a supermarket which killed 2 people.

The UN security council passed the whole night in meeting and eventually came to a resolution that demands the retreat of the IDF. Representatives of the Palestinian Authority praised the resolution but said it won't result in anything unless if the US intervenes. In spite of the UN statement, Israel has declared that the attacks will continue for a week or so. They promised that the US government however that they will not kill Yasser Arafat.



city and up to now around 100 people have been arrested, including several political leaders. GIPP people from various countries, already inside Ramallah when the invasion took place, managed to reach the Ramallah Hospital to donate blood and a number of them managed to reach the compound of the Palestinian Authority.

Finally, of worrisome proportions is the humanitarian crisis in the making: pregnant women cannot risk going after proper medical care for eventual de-

liveries, many injured people are still inside the compound occupied yesterday by the invading forces and it is impossible for local medical teams provide care for them as well as for anyone else in need of an ambulance.

We demand immediate international pressure to allow provision of medical care and, foremost, we call upon you to exercise the utmost pressure possible on Israeli authorities and missions abroad for the end of atrocities.

Timeline of the Middle-East conflict

by IMC Print

1947 UN Resolution 181 accepted, stating the constitution of a Palestinian state and a Jewish one, and a internationalized Jerusalem.

1948 May 14 Proclamation of the Israeli state by the National Jewish Council. Arab countries promptly attack Israel. The UN stops the fights in June. Conte Bernadotte, the UN mediator, is killed by Jewish terrorists and this ends the peace process: the fights resume in Negev and Israel conquers Eliat. During the wars, close to a million Palestinians are driven from their ancestral lands by Israeli invaders.

1949 The negotiations in February and June lead to a cease-fire that freezes the status quo (Israel by now occupies 77% of the combined lands) and determines the division of Jerusalem among Israeli, Jordan and Egypt. The building of the Israeli state commences with regular general elections. The Palestinian State however does not come into being: all the remaining territories are occupied by Jordan and Egypt.

1949-1956 Organized mass migration of Jewish from all over the world. By systematically establishing Kibbutzin (autonomous fortified farms) on bought land, Israel's borders are further expanded.

1956 Border pressure pushes Egypt towards an embargo, closing Suez Channel and the Eliat harbour. In October Israel attacks Egypt.

1957 UN intervention determines the re-opening of the Eliat harbour and the delivery of all the Occupied Territory (Sinai, Gaza) to the UN by Israel.

1959 Creation of the Al Fatah resistance movement by, among others, Yasser Arafat.

1964 Creation of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), consisting of various Palestinian resistance movements. Al Fatah dominates the PLO from the beginning.

1967 Six Days War (June 5-10) with the Israeli capture of all remaining territory of Palestine (the West Bank and Gaza Strip, until then under Jordanian and Egyptian control). The war brought about a second mass flight of Palestinians (more than half a million). In November, the UN Security Council adopts Resolution 242 demanding Israel to totally withdraw from the occupied territories.

1968 Mass establishment of Jewish settlers in Hebron, the beginning of the colonization of newly occupied Palestinian land by Israel.

1969 Arafat becomes PLO's chairman.

1971 Civil war in Jordan between the PLO and the Jordanian government. PLO have to leave for Lebanon.

1973 Yom Kippur War (October 6-24) and Arab oil embargo against Israel (October 17). On October 19, the US Government sends 2.2 billion US \$ in military aid to Israel, the beginning of a very tight relationship between the two states.

1975-1977 The UN General Assembly gives the PLO the status of observer in the general assembly and other international conferences held under UN auspices.

1979 Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty signed (March 26).

1982 In compliance with the peace treaty of 1978, Israel completely withdraws from Sinai. Israel invades Lebanon, forcing the PLO to withdraw from there. One-sided disarmament by the PLO. On September

16th-17th, Lebanese militias and Israeli troops, under orders of Minister of Defense Ariel Sharon, attack the Palestinian refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila, resulting in massive civilian deaths. An official Israeli investigation concludes afterwards that Sharon bears responsibility for these slaughters. He is not punished however.

1985 After years of guerrilla and civil war in Lebanon, Israel withdraws its forces from Lebanon, except for the south.

1987 Beginning of the first "intifada" (popular unarmed riots) which lasts for years and results in a large number of deaths among Palestinian civilians.

1991 The Gulf War. The US promises the Arab nations to tackle the Palestinian problem resulting in a peace conference in Madrid. On December 16th, UN repeals the "Zionism is Racism" resolution.

1993 On January 19th, Israeli opposition party members start talks with the PLO, despite a ban on such meetings by law. These talks eventually lead to the Oslo Agreements. Despite this, tensions rise in the occupied territories, in part due to the ongoing Israeli policy of systematic

expropriations of Palestinian lands and buildings for use by Jewish settlements.

1994 Israel withdraws from Jericho and most of Gaza. Arafat takes residence in Gaza. Arafat, Rabin and Peres are awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Late in the year parts of the West Bank are handed over to the Palestinians.

1995 Signing of the "Oslo II" agreement

1996 First Palestinian elections. Arafat becomes the elected president of the Palestinians

1997 Israeli withdraws from Hebron. But continues its settlement policy. UN condemns Israeli colonization of Har Homa.

2000 Israel unilaterally withdraws from Southern Lebanon (except for a small region). Camp David Summit.

September 28, 2000 Israel member of opposition Ariel Sharon visits the Temple Mount

September 29, 2000 Outbreak of widespread Palestinian violence, the second or "al aqsa" intifada.

February 6, 2001 Ariel Sharon becomes Prime Minister of Israel

2001-2002 Increasing Israeli and Palestinian violence culminates into the invasion of Ramallah and the siege on Arafat.

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IMC Israel <http://indymedia.org.il>

Palestinian activism

The electronic intifada: <http://www.electronicintifada.com>

Miftah <http://www.miftah.org/About.cfm>

Israeli human rights organizations

Gush Shalom <http://www.gush-shalom.org/>

B'Tselem <http://www.btselem.org>

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