



Israelis versus Israel

ISRAELIS
VERSUS
ISRAEL

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ISRAEL has recently been condemned more than once by United Nations Human Rights Commissions for the persecution of Arabs under its occupation. These U.N. Commissions have never been allowed into Israel to investigate conditions of Arabs under Israeli occupation; and their findings have been based on interviews with Arabs who managed to leave after having been subjected at one stage to Israeli oppression.

However, the Israeli League for Human and Civil Rights have now published their own version on the Israeli practices in the occupied territories; and The Office of the League of Arab States in London is here simply reproducing the Israeli testimony verbatim. The Arab League's only contribution to this document is the few photographs which are self explanatory.

MEMORANDUM

To: THE UN COMMISSION ON THE ISRAELI PRACTICES
IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, N.Y., U.S.A.

and

THE INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR THE RIGHTS
OF MAN, N.Y., U.S.A.

*affiliated to the International League for the Rights of Man,
N.Y., U.S.A.*

In its special meeting on 8th June, 1970, the Executive of the Israeli League for Human and Civil Rights decided to appoint Mr. Joseph Abileah to testify before the UN Commission on the Israeli Practices in the Occupied Territories.

The attached Memorandum drafted by the Chairman, Dr. Israel Shahak and the Vice-Chairman, Mr. Uriel Davis, was authorised by the Executive to be presented by Executive Member, J. Abileah, who will answer further questions concerning this Memorandum.

DR. ISRAEL SHAHAK
Chairman

MR. URIEL DAVIS
Vice-Chairman

The Israeli League for Human and Civil Rights,
P.O.B. 20178, Tel-Aviv, Israel.

INTRODUCTION

WE would like to make a personal note. We, the regular readers of the Israeli press somehow got accustomed to reading titles such as: "Three Houses Blown-Up In Hebron", "Twelve Hour Curfew On Gaza Will Continue For Several More Days", "A Man Killed In Nablus During Curfew Hours", etc.

We are so accustomed that we hardly notice the news; since our mind is finite we do not, and cannot continually register the sum total. It became a daily characteristic of our life in Israel and of the situation in the occupied territories, to the extent that it is barely noticeable.

When we sat over our files and ran over our clippings we were alarmed. Even we, who are acutely conscious of the Israeli overall and daily policy and of the day-by-day violation of Human Rights in Israel and the occupied territories, were shocked at the alarming figures. Who would have thought that 7,554 houses were blown and/or razed by 15th November, 1969, in the occupied territories.

We are submitting this memorandum for international publication in the profoundest belief that by so doing we are serving our people and the cause of peace in the best possible way: we hope that this will be a significant contribution to the local and international efforts of solving the Middle-Eastern conflict on the basis of securing all and every individual and national Human Rights of all parties concerned.

POLITICAL OPPRESSION

THE conspicuous feature of the Israeli occupation regime (like every other occupation) is the denial of all rights of political expression and organisation. All organisation, including Mutual Aid Organisation, Pupil Councils, etc., is forbidden. The Muslim Religious (Sharia) Courts have lost their legal legitimization and right of operation, labour union officials are systematically arrested or expelled. In other words the freedom, complete freedom of expression and organisation provided by the Bill of Human Rights (freedom of political organisation, demonstrations, assemblies and every other form of political non-violent activity) is totally denied to the Palestinians under the Israeli occupation.

(1) *Zot Ha-Derech*, 15th January, 1969. People selling the Israeli bi-weekly *Al-Ittihad* (legal in Israel) in the West Bank were sentenced to various prison terms.

(2) *Ibid*, 21st May, 1969. Five high-school teachers were sentenced to four-five months' imprisonment for belonging to "illegal organisation". Their lawyer, F. Langer, has read before the court the constitution of this association, which defined the objectives of the association as: mutual help for secondary school students, co-operation with international student organisations and contribution to the cause of peace.

(3) *Ibid*, 4th January, 1970. High school students in Jericho are administratively imprisoned for the constitution of a pupil mutual help organisation.

(4) *Ha-Aretz*, 7th May, 1970. After a non-violent strike held in Ramallah and al-Bira the military governor of Ramallah area announced to the notables of the two cities that he has cancelled all permits of Ramallah and al-Bira merchants to import sheep from the East Bank and will not allow the Ramallah Emigrants in U.S.A. Association to pass over to the Ramallah Municipality the \$100,000 donation collected abroad.

LABOUR EXPLOITATION

MANY thousands of Palestinian labourers from the occupied territories are employed in Israel. The Palestinian worker does not receive the same payment for the same work as his Israeli counterpart; as a matter of fact they are not receiving payment from their employer at all. The employer pays the Israeli government which deducts about 40% and pays the rest to the Palestinian labourers. These deducted sums are being accumulated in a special fund in the name of the State of Israel and have reached in May, 1970, IL50,000,000. It should be noted that the official legitimization of the deduction is claimed to be social welfare, organisation and travel tax, while the Palestinian labourers from the occupied territories are denied by legislation all social welfare rights such as health insurance, pension, etc.

During the last half year the transportation of Palestinian labourers from the Gaza Strip to Israel has become increasingly difficult; some factories in Israel have, therefore, established closed

camps in the factory area for male and female Palestinian labourers from the occupied territories, where they live in tents and huts.

(1) *Ha-Aretz*, 1st August, 1969. "Manpower engineers contemptuously wave away Minister P. Sapir's statement that we are turning the Arabs into hewers of wood and drawers of water of the state. It is clear, they say, that someone has to execute this sort of labour even in the most technologically developed country."

(2) *Ibid*, 4th August, 1969. Jewish labourers used to receive IL85 for harvesting one ton of sugar beet. Palestinian workers from the occupied territories receive now IL22-24 for harvesting $3\frac{1}{2}$ tons of sugar beet.

(3) *Ha-Aretz*, 8th August, 1969. According to official statements from November, 1968, to March, 1969, 16,500 labourers from the occupied territories worked in Israel. They were paid (gross) in this period IL2,760,000 from which IL1,180,000 was deducted—i.e. about 40%.

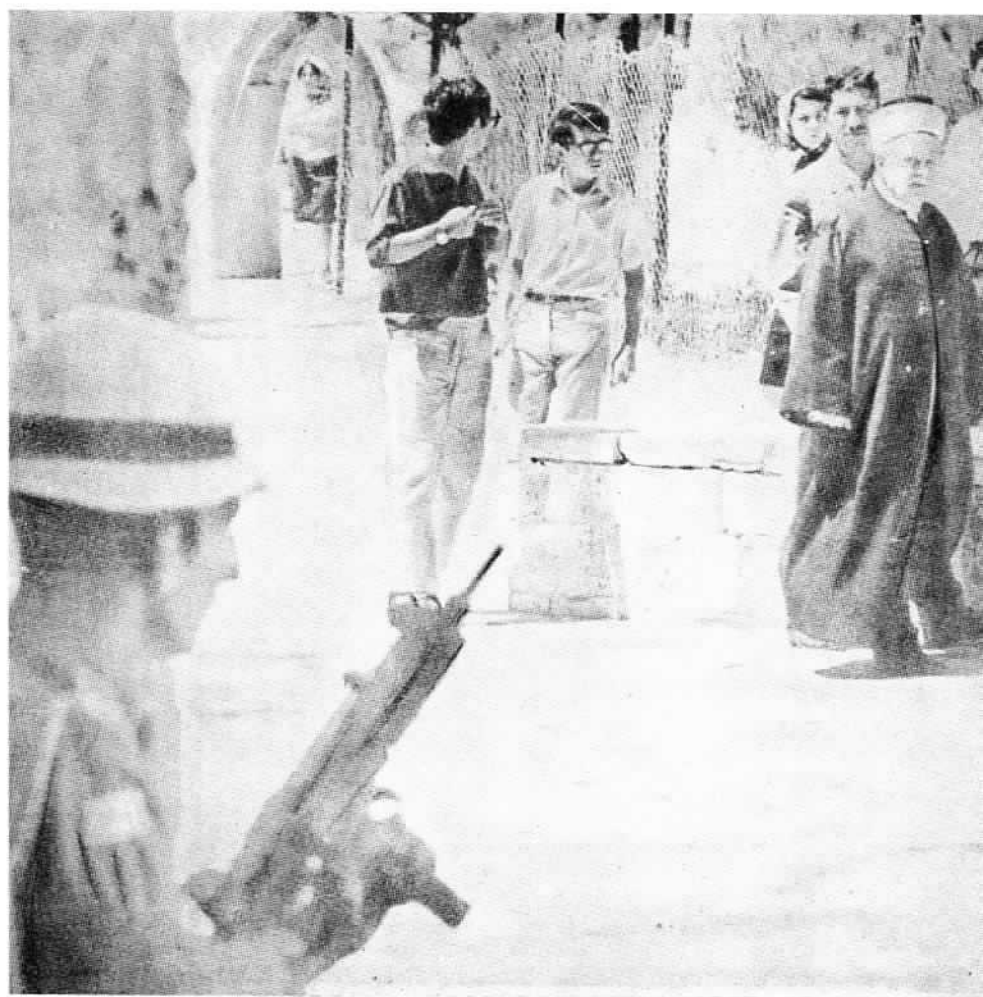
(4) *Maariv*, 17th December, 1969. Out of IL18 which is the daily pay of an Israeli agricultural labourer, IL6-8 are deducted by the Government Employment Services, so that an agricultural labourer from the occupied territories get IL12-10 (if he works in Israel). It is forbidden that the employer pays him directly. All payment should—by legislation—be done via the government or the military agencies.

(5) *Yediot Aharonot*, 20th January, 1970. About a half of agricultural labourers in Ashkelon area and workers in food industry in the same area are labourers from the Gaza Strip; labourers are as high as 70%.

(6) *Voice of Israel*, 6th April, 1970. 13.00 and *Ha-Aretz*, 30th April, 1970, report that several factories in Ashkelon area constructed close tent and hut camps in the factory areas where the Palestinian labourers from the occupied territories, and especially from the Gaza Strip live for long periods.

(7) *Ha-Aretz*, 13th May, 1970. The General Labour Union of Israeli Workers demanded from the occupied territories—labourers—payments. The sum demanded is IL500,000 (that is to say that approximately IL50,000,000 deducted from salaries of labourers from the occupied territories are held by the Israeli Treasury).









THE PRINCIPLES OF COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT

EVER since the beginning of the Israeli occupation in 1967 collective punishment was a principle of wide application. Various instances of this you will find in the chapters of this memorandum, e.g.: blowing-up houses, taking hostages, expulsion of Palestinian leaders and notables, curfews, etc. The man personally responsible for the Israeli policies in the occupied territories is Defence Minister Moshe Dayan. It might be revealing to quote his reply to M.P. Uri Avneri's query about the blowing-up of the house where Mrs. Aida Isa Saad lived (in Gaza), although the house was not owned by her, nor by her parents; they only rented a dwelling there. The house was blown-up on the 20th March, 1969. (*Zot Ha-Derech*, 14th May, 1969.) Mr. M. Dayan asserted that the military authorities indeed blew up the house. When asked again by M.P. Avneri: "Is the Ministry of Defence acting in such cases according to the principles of collective responsibility of the whole family for one of its members?" Minister M. Dayan answered: "Yes."

BLOWING-UP OF HOUSES

WE are herewith submitting the report of a most distinguished man of science and international renown, a Palestinian Arab who has lived under the Israeli occupation since 1967. His name is registered with us, and will be submitted in confidence to the UN Committee on the Practices of the Israeli Authorities in the Occupied Territories by our representative at his testimony on 10th June. This report covers the period ending on 15th November, 1969.

The blowing up of houses is a continual practice in the occupied territories; cases occurring after the above date are mentioned in our first memorandum to the UN Committee dated 20th April, 1970.

BLOWING-UP OF HOUSES BY THE ISRAELI MILITARY IN

Location (Area)	1st Inquiry Date	2nd Inquiry Date
	From 11th June, 1967 to 5th April, 1968	From 5th April, 1968 to 10th Sept., 1969
JERUSALEM	145	290
LATROUN	1,830	2,500
IMWAS		
BEIT NUBA		
YALU		
SAMARIA	2,635	3,703
NABLUS-JENIN		
TULKARM-TUBAS		
QALQILYA-JIFTLIK, etc.		
HEBRON	399	427
JEBEL KHALIL—HEBRON		
BEIT AWA & MERSIM		
HALHOUL		
GAZA-	280	322
GAZA-KHAN YUNIS		
DEIR AL-BALAH—RAFAH		
RAMALLAH—BIREH AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES	33	
BETHLEHEM		36
SURROUNDING VILLAGES AND REFUGEE CAMPS	45	77
TOTALS:	5,367	7,355

The last figure total of 7,554 does not include any houses in the occupied territories. The *Post* printed the following article in the issue of 5th October, 1969, United Nations:

“Syria said last week that Israel demolished at least 17 villages† in the Golan Heights. It said the Israel police aimed at eviction of all 115,000 Syrian inhabitants. George Tomeh said the Israeli acts showed Israel’s determination to erase the existence of the occupied territories.”

† Four known villages are: Abizetun, Tell Eseqi, Errazaniye and Khan el-
Jawza.

IN THE OCCUPIED AREAS 1969 — AFTER THE CEASEFIRE

3rd Inquiry Date
From
10th Sept., 1969
to 15th Nov., 1969

Remarks (*)

342	}	Please read the name of the owner on Schedule 1 of the attached. The 1st figure is my estimate. The corrected figures were from tax roles submitted by Muktars and village leaders of the totally demolished villages.
2,500		
3,719		The 1st figure is from furnished list. Later other villages in the area were brought to my attention. They are shown in 2nd and 3rd dates. See attached schedule.
519		The destruction of 87 houses in Halhoul was brought to my attention the 1st week of November, 1969. See attached schedule.
352		First figure was from the <i>London Times</i> , 23rd March, 1968. Later I was furnished with a completed list by reliable source supplying number and names of owners. See attached schedule.
44	}	See attached schedules.
78		
7,554		(*)The schedule and other specifications can be obtained from the author.

of Golan Heights, because of lack of verification. However, the *Jerusalem* Nations (Reuter):

the occupied Golan Heights within a 10 month period ending in July. It is
at from the area. In a letter to UN Sec. Gen. U-Thant, Syrian Ambassador
ase in the most barbaric fashion all traces of Arab life and property in the

(*Jerusalem Post*, 13th April, 1969.)

Joukhadar.

ADMINISTRATIVE DETENTIONS, EXPULSIONS AND TORTURE

TODAY there are by official sources 1,000 administrative detainees from the occupied territories in Israeli gaols. This number does not include the numerous prisoners who have been charged, but not brought to court. Many of this second category are kept for long periods in gaol—but rather than brought before court, they are often simply released. Many of them agree to emigrate, or as it is officially put “agree to be expelled”.

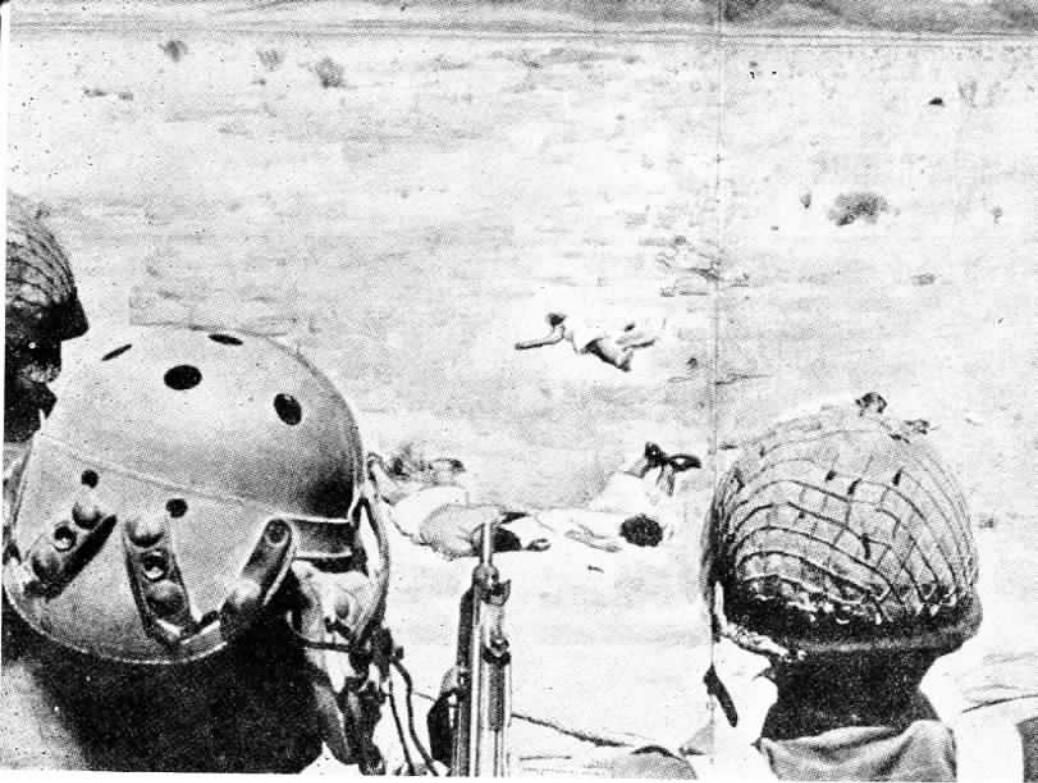
Almost all convictions in the Israeli Military Courts in the occupied territories are based on confessions by the accused. In very many cases the prisoners deny their confession in court and complain of being coerced to confess under torture. They describe exactly the various methods of torture applied on them, sometimes even point out their torturers in the courtroom and offer to be submitted to medical investigation to support and prove their complaint of torture under interrogation. In all cases there was no official *judicial* investigation of these complaints. Even in cases where an obviously incapacitated man with physical marks of torture appears before the court, the court of the Appeal Commission refuses investigation into the matter.

During the last months the situation worsened: now Military Courts refuse even to hear preliminary claims and complaints of torture, unless the accused presents to the court the full names of his torturers. (This should be quite difficult, since torturers do not usually introduce themselves.) It was also decided (*Zot Ha-Derech*, 22nd April, 1970) that Military Courts will not investigate into the behaviour and conduct of interrogators during interrogation, “noting the importance and vitality of their security responsibilities in this area, it is the duty of the court to avoid disturbing them in their task” (from the proceedings of the Ramallah court, *ibid*).

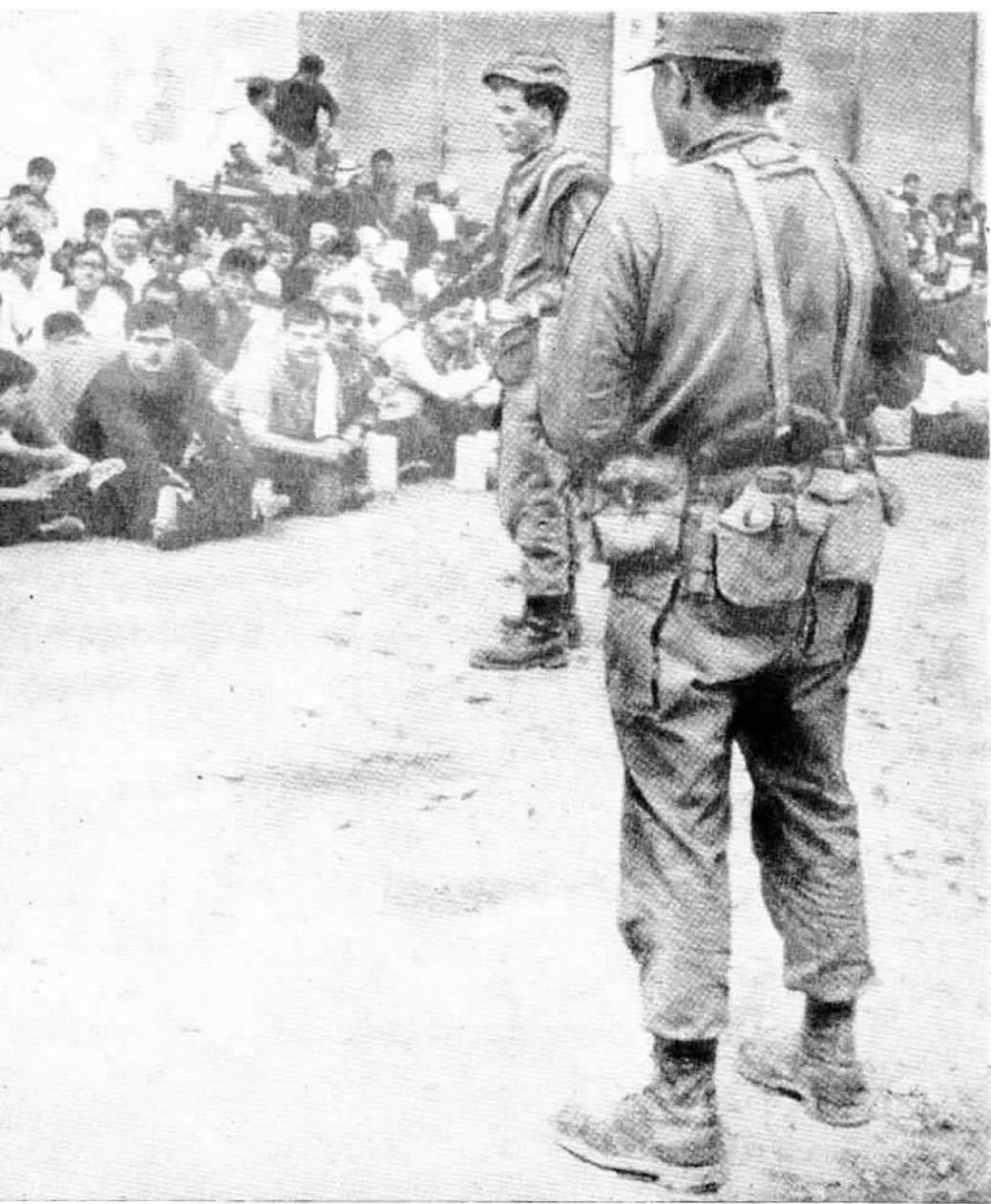
We are referring all interested individuals and organisations to the lawyers: Mrs. F. Langer, Koresh St. No. 14, Jerusalem; Mr. Ali Rafi, *ibid*; Mr. Hanna Nakara, al-Khouri St. No. 23, Haifa, and Mr. Szabri Jaris, Eliyahu ha-Navi St. No. 1, Haifa, for further information on the subject.

The situation in our opinion is very grave and becomes continually worse. We would like to recommend in this form constitution of an international commission of investigation, composed of judges from countries not hostile to Israel, which will investigate these









allegations of torture, which in our opinion are well substantiated. We would like to bring to your attention that Amnesty International's recommendation of investigations to be carried out by Israeli judges was refused by the government of Israel.

EXPULSIONS (*)

(1) *Maariv*, 6th September, 1968, reported that four Palestinians were expelled to Jordan.

(2) *Yediot Aharonot*, 25th October, 1968, reported that four Palestinian notables were expelled to Jordan, amongst which were a doctor, a child doctor, and the vice-mayor of Nablus.

(3) *Maariv*, 30th October, 1968, reported that 10 Palestinian notables expelled to Jordan included the chairman of the teachers' association of the West Bank, the chairman of the Red Crescent, three teachers and an education inspector.

(4) *Yediot Aharonot*, 25th November, 1968, reports: Eight Palestinians expelled to Jordan, mostly teachers, including two women. The expulsion was carried out after a quarter of an hour's notice.

(5) *Ha-Aretz*, 15th December, 1968: An ex-police sergeant was expelled with all his family.

(6) *Maariv*, 10th February, 1969, reports: Seven youngsters expelled to Jordan.

(7) *Ha-Aretz*, 28th April, 1969, reports: Two women—a secretary of the women association in Nablus and her daughter—expelled.

(8) *Ha-Aretz*, 7th May, 1969, reports: Doctor Faysal Kanaan, a dentist from Nablus, reported expelled from Jordan.

(9) *Ha-Aretz*, 21st May, 1969, reports: A whole bedouin tribe expelled from Jordan valley.

(10) *Maariv*, 8th June, 1969, reports: Nine notables, including teachers, a labour leader, the engineer of the town of Nablus—expelled to Jordan. They were not permitted to see their families before expulsion.

(11) *Maariv*, 3rd July, 1969, reports: Three Palestinian notables exiled for three months, a doctor and two lawyers.

(12) *Ha-Aretz*, 9th March, 1969, reports: Seven Palestinians from the Gaza Strip expelled to Jordan.

(*) *This is a selection referring only to the period September 1968—March 1970. In many cases expulsion is referred to in Israeli press as permission to pass over to the Eastern Bank of Jordan.*

(13) *Ha-Aretz*, 31st March, 1969, reports: "The priest Elias Khuri has agreed to sign a request for expulsion to Jordan."

(14) *Ha-Aretz*, 17th September, 1969, reports: An education inspector and an apothecary expelled to Jordan.

(15) *Ha-Aretz*, 17th April, 1969, reports Dr. Muammar from Beit Hanina (near Jerusalem) expelled to Jordan.

(16) *Maariv*, 16th September, 1969, reports: Two Palestinian notables from Hebron expelled to Jordan.

(17) *Maariv*, 24th April, 1969, reports: Five of the chief educators of the West Bank expelled to Jordan.

(18) *Ha-Aretz*, 7th October, 1969, reports: Nadim al-Zaru, the mayor of Ramallah, and nine notables expelled to Jordan.

(19) *Ha-Aretz*, 24th October, 1969, reports: A student expelled to Jordan.

(20) *Maariv*, 4th November, 1969, reports: Three mukhtars of the Taamara tribe expelled to Jordan.

(21) *Ha-Aretz*, 17th December, 1969, reports: Six Palestinian notables from Gaza exiled to the Sinai desert for an unlimited period.

(22) *Maariv*, 19th March, 1970, reports: Five Palestinians expelled to Jordan.

We would like to draw your attention to a petition submitted to the occupation authorities by 24 Palestinian notables in protest of the expulsions of several Palestinian leaders, i.e., Lawyer Antun Abdullah from Jerusalem, Ibrahim Dakar and Kamal Nasir from Ramallah and Sheikh Abdallah Hamid al-Saih, the Mufti of Jerusalem. (Reported in *Zot Ha-Derech*, 10th January, 1969.) It said: "This method is against international rules and the fundamental rights of an inhabitant to live in his land and in his house. . . . Shamefully, the occupation authorities declared openly that the expulsions are punishments for non-collaboration. It is well known that it is the fundamental right of every individual under occupation regime not to collaborate with the conqueror so long as he does nothing to endanger the security of the ruling or the ruled."

KILLING DURING CURFEW (*)

(1) *Zot Ha-Derech*, 4th December, 1968: Three killed and six wounded in Gaza from the firing of the army into crowd.

(2) *Ha-Aretz*, 1st January, 1969: A boy and a woman killed in Hebron. The official explanation: refused to stop when demanded to do so.

(*) *A selection covering only the period Dec. 1968—April 1970*

(3) *Ibid*, 21st January, 1969: Army fires on a crowd of women: one killed, nine wounded.

(4) *Yediot Aharonot*, 22nd May, 1969: An Arab who refused to stop at the demand of an army patrol killed in Gaza.

(5) *Ha-Aretz*, 14th November, 1969: Two inhabitants of Rafah killed while being in the street during curfew hours.

(6) *Ibid*, 1st May, 1969: A boy killed in Nablus for similar reasons.

(7) *Ibid*, 3rd April, 1970: An inhabitant of Beit Hanun (Gaza Strip) killed during curfew hours.

(8) *Ibid*, 13th April, 1970: An inhabitant of Gaza killed during curfew.

(9) *Ibid*, 16th March, 1970: An Israeli Arab killed in Gaza when army fired into crowd.

(10) *Ibid*, 24th March, 1970: An inhabitant of Nablus killed during curfew.

(11) *Maariv*, 24th April, 1970: Two inhabitants of Rafiah killed during curfew.

TORTURE (*)

(1) *Zot Ha-Derech*, 17th January, 1968: Naim al-Ashhab, from East Jerusalem, arrested in November 1967, complains of severe beating in the Jerusalem gaol,

(2) *Ibid, ibid*: Curfew and investigations in a refugee camp in Gaza (31,000 inhabitants); male population from the age of 17 to 60 was removed into a closed compound and held for 36 hours in pouring rain and severe cold. A considerable number fainted.

(3) *Ibid*, 21st February, 1968: A wave of arbitrary arrests of women and youngsters in the West Bank and Gaza. More than 300 women, representatives of all women organisations in the West Bank, signed a petition addressed to Defence Minister M. Dayan, in which they complain: "The authorities are arresting many women with no reason; those women are not charged. . . . The cruel and terroristic actions of the occupation authorities in Gaza Strip include destruction of huts, houses, citrus orchards, water wells engines, curfews for several days irrespective of the needs of children and old men and prevention of first medical aid and necessary treatment of the sick."

(4) *Ibid*, 8th May, 1968: After a non-violent strike in Ramallah and al-Bira travel in and out of the two cities was totally cut off;

(*) *The selection covers the period 1968-1970.*

this was described as an "educational action".

(5) *Ibid*, 29th May, 1968: Henri Habash, Nabil Diab, Walid al-Dusi, Ziad Hanna Amira, Muhammad Abu Kabir, Ziad Muhammad Abu Mazir from East Jerusalem complained of being tortured at the Jerusalem police station and pointed out in court the policeman who tortured them. They were accused of distributing leaflets calling for a non-violent strike.

(6) *Ibid*, 24th July, 1968: Lawyer Jamil Shalhub submitted a complaint to Defence Minister, Minister of Police and Prime Minister, concerning the pupil Muaid Uthman al-Bahash from the Nablus al-Salahiyya Secondary School. He was arrested on the 9th December, 1967. No visits whatever for a period of six months. When finally allowed a visit he was found with his left hand completely paralysed and gave the following declaration of torture in the Sarafand Military prison: "I was hanged by my hands to the ceiling, pulled down by my legs, flogged and beaten on my sexual parts until I lost consciousness. I was chained, hands and feet, and compelled to run under the compulsion of flogging. I was left alone only after I was bleeding in all parts of my body. Urine was poured over me. Electrodes were attached to my body and head and electrical current was sent through. Cigarettes were extinguished on my body and head and scars remained till this very day." No investigation was carried out.

(7) *Ibid*, 4th September, 1968: The prisoner Aballa Taha Adama on meeting her lawyer, F. Langer, at the Jerusalem gaol where she is arrested in the presence of Ali Rafi' and inspector Golan, burst into tears and complained of torture; Inspector Golan tried to hush her, yet to no avail. She said that immediately after her arrest she was put into a cell with several Jewish prostitutes, who stripped her naked in the presence of the policemen and beat her brutally. Then, still naked, she was put into punishment cell, where she was denied elementary sanitation facilities and was forced to relieve herself in the cell for three days. She was left naked eight more days and then brutally kicked by a policeman named Duwayk. She was pregnant and started to bleed. Her request for medical treatment was refused.

(8) *Ibid*: Lutfi al-Huwari met his lawyer, F. Langer, on the 12th August, 1968, and told a similar story.

(9) *Ibid*, 17th October, 1968: A demonstration of school girls in Nablus was broken by shooting into the crowd, several girls were wounded.

(10) *Ibid*, 4th December, 1968: Yahya Asad Abd al-Rahman al-Jasim, secondary school pupil from Gaza, arrested in October 1967. He complained of torture, and was charged with subversive activities on 1st January, 1968. For 10 months he was waiting for his trial, and the charge was cancelled, but the accused was not released, but remained in gaol by administrative ordinance issued on 30th October, 1968.

(11) *Ibid*, 18th December, 1968: Hasan Isa Hassan al-Batat, aged 15 from al-Zahariyya near Hebron, arrested in the bus on returning from school on the charge of not carrying an identity card. He explained that since he is 15 years old, he is not entitled to an identity card; yet he was carried to Hebron jail and was beaten on his head. He died a few hours after he was released. A local doctor identified the cause of his death as brain injury.

(12) *Ibid*, 26th December, 1968: Uthman al-Aaraj from East Jerusalem, was arrested during the demonstration of school girls near the Nablus Gate. He was brought to the Jerusalem police station, put into a cell and stripped naked. Three plain clothes policemen beat him with a stick on his body, especially on his sexual parts, inserted the stick into his rectum, and then pushed it into his mouth. The prisoner was left naked and beaten again but still refused to confess. He was freed on 28th October, 1968, and cautioned not to speak with anybody about his interrogation. However, he immediately consulted a doctor, who issued a statement asserting grievous bodily injuries. He then forwarded a complaint to the authorities. The next day, 29th October, he was re-arrested and held in an isolation cell until all marks of the torture disappeared, without being interrogated again. He was then freed.

(13) *Ibid, ibid*: Rajib Abd al-Muati Abu Ras from al-Bira was arrested in October 1967, held six months in prison, charged and acquitted without being brought before court. Re-arrested immediately again by administrative ordinance and held in isolation. His fellow-prisoners reported to his family that he was hanged by his hands, lost several of his finger nails, and he was compelled many times to drink water from the faeces container. He was released on 12th December, 1968; his torn out finger nails were observed by his lawyer and a complaint was submitted to the Minister of Justice. On the next day he was again re-arrested by administrative ordinance for the period of six months.

(14) *Ibid*, 28th January, 1969: In his reply at the Israeli Parliament (Knesset) to a query concerning the killing of three Pales-

tinians and the wounding of seven (including a six year old child), Defence Minister M. Dayan stated that firing into the crowd is legal.

(15) *Ibid*, 26th March, 1969: Qaim Abu Aqar, from East Jerusalem, was arrested and died in the Jerusalem gaol. His death was not investigated, but his body was brought by the police straight to the cemetery and his family was compelled to bury him instantly.

(16) *Ibid*, 7th May, 1969: Dawud Ali Ariqat, from Jericho, arrested on 23rd March, 1969; he was not allowed to see his lawyer for over a month and on meeting him complained of torture in the Jerusalem gaol by plain clothes policemen. A complaint was sent to Minister of Police and Defence Minister.

(17) *Ibid*, 18th June, 1969: The following are details of the conditions in Hebron gaol: Prisoners are permitted to relieve themselves only twice a day, at 7.00 p.m. and 6.00 a.m., each time for one and a half minutes. Washing is allowed only twice a week, and not allowed on other days, even for lustration before daily prayers. There is no daily walks and the density in the cells is terrible.

(18) *Ibid*, 23rd July, 1969: Naim al-Ashhab complains in a letter from his prison: "During my imprisonment I finally came to know the meaning of the Israeli democracy. . . . Even in the field of medical treatment in gaol there is racial discrimination between Jews and Arabs. . . . I have come to know Israelis encouraging and promoting the execution of homosexual assault against Arab political prisoners in full knowledge and approval of the prison management." (The prisons concerned are Ramleh and Jerusalem gaols.)

(19) *Ibid*, 20th August, 1969: In the Military Court of Ramallah a long series of torture carried out in the Jerusalem prison was revealed. Lawyer Bashir al-Khayi, Abu al-Hadi Awda and Abu Hadiha, who were represented by their lawyers Antun Jasir and F. Langer, testified that they were prevented from seeing their lawyers for about a month, and finally, when Mr. Bashir al-Khayri was allowed to see his lawyer in the presence of the police and began complaining of torture he was immediately taken away on the claim that he was not speaking to the point. The police doctor was called by the prosecution in rebuttal and was proven in cross-examination not to have examined at all the accused.

(20) *Ibid*, 4th September, 1969: Sami Abu Diyab, Abd al-Latif Id from East Jerusalem, complained during their trial on the fol-

lowing tortures. Abu Diyab gave the following evidence: "I was beaten by a stick and iron wire, I was hanged by my feet upside down and a bullet was inserted into my rectum and I lost consciousness." Abd al-Latif Id: "I was beaten with a nailed ruler, I was beaten on my eyes, I was hanged down by chained feet, a bullet was inserted into my rectum and I lost consciousness." When the prosecutor suggested that they were lying Abu Diyab answered: "We have honour and we are speaking the truth. It is the interrogators who lie because they are torturing us and then swearing in court that they never touched us."

(21) *Ibid, ibid*: Prison conditions in the Ashkelon gaol: prisoners are forbidden to address their warders, unless they literally lower their heads, they sleep in shifts on the floor (without mattresses). The prisoners, who by and large are on administrative detention and are mostly educated, are refused books and other reading material. Prisoners are allowed to relieve themselves only twice a day (7.00 p.m. and 6.00 a.m.) for one and a half minutes only.

(22) *Ibid*, 24th September, 1969: Yusuf Abdallah Udwan, prisoner in Tul-Karm by administrative ordinance dated 29th March, 1969. He was refused permission to see his lawyer, F. Langer. On 8th September, 1969, he was brought before the Commission of Appeal and his lawyer has seen him there. He reported of rough beating by stick in all parts of his body until he could not move about by himself for long periods. He was tortured by electrical instruments and lighted matches. A favourite torture consisted of burning his lips with lighted matches and asking him to put them out. The representative of the International Red Cross was not allowed to see him. The chairman of the Appeal Commission refused to hear anything on this matter, claiming that it is no business and no concern of the Commission.

(23) *Ibid, ibid*: Ishaq al-Marajai, from East Jerusalem, arrested in March 1969, complains of being hanged by the feet and flogged in this position, beaten on his head with a stick and had hot and cold water alternately poured over him. He was also tortured with electrodes. He is incapacitated to this very day and the scars on his head are clearly visible.

(24) *Ibid*, 19th December, 1969: On further sessions of the Ramallah Military Court on Bashir al-Khayri case the prisoner reported again on torture undergone in the Jerusalem gaol. When cross-examined by the prosecutor on his torture allegations he declared to the court: "The prosecutor says there are no beating

and torture in your regime. He tries to show that my evidence is a lie. I ask this court to visit right now the prison of Ramallah which is situated only a few meters away and I will show the scores of people who have undergone torture bleeding all over with broken hands. If you truly want to do justice fulfil my request." His lawyer, F. Langer, supported his petition, but the reply of the court was: "You must defend yourself and not others, and we are not interested in visiting prisons."

(25) *Ibid*, 6th May, 1970: In her open letter to the Minister of Police entitled "Where is Truth, Mr. Police Minister", Lawyer F. Langer sums up cases of torture reported to her during the past six months:

- (a) Abd al-Mutailib Abu Ramila, from East Jerusalem, was reported insane three months after his imprisonment.
- (b) Naim al-Ashhab was again beaten, this time by Jewish prisoners in the Shatta prison who were reported to be instigated to do so.
- (c) Abd al-Hadi Awda and Abu Hadidha (see also item 19) gave evidence in the Ramallah Military Court and reported on the tortures they have undergone during police interrogations in Jerusalem. Abu Hadidha has shown the court the wounds on his head. He also reported on the tortures he has undergone in the Sarafand gaol.

In this open letter to the Minister of Police Lawyer F. Langer says: "Your Honour is informed of Ishaq Ali al-Marajai's case. Mr. Marajai pointed out the names of the interrogators who have beaten him in the Jerusalem police station, and described his tortures (see item 23). The charges against him were cancelled and he is now an administrative prisoner. He is still incapacitated and the wounds on his head are still open. He was invited by police officers to testify on his complaints of torture, but was not allowed to invite his lawyer to be present during his testimony—and this was the end of the police investigation. The Police Ministry then alleged that he refused to testify and there was no further evidence to support his claims. Can such procedure be called investigation? Why were those who could testify of being eye-witnesses, who have seen the prisoner, not allowed to testify in the presence of his lawyer? . . . Is the evidence engraved on the man's body not sufficient testimony?"

