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Report on the Israeli Invasion of Jenin Refugee Camp Appendix C: What Israeli Soldiers said to Palestinians and Between Themselves During the Invasion of the Jenin Refugee Camp: 3-18 April 2002: A Partial List acquired through Eyewitness Testimony by the Jenin Inquiry

The power of words is enormous. They have the power to destroy or to give life. In an effort to more fully tell the story of what the people of Palestine endured during the hideous Israeli invasion of the Jenin Refugee Camp, we have transcribed this list of quotations from the Israeli soldiers—whether they be Russian, Lebanese, Druze, or European—uttered unto Palestinians or among themselves and captured through the interviews we conducted.

It is our feeling that a simple listing of these quotations, though in no way exhaustive or comprehensive of the conversations held or topics discussed between Palestinian civilians and Israeli soldiers, suggests something of the nature of this pre-planned, state-operated military operation. Listen carefully.

Eyyad Hanoun

“Shoot them in the head, one by one.”

“Do you understand Hebrew? I will command and you will do. Open the door.”

At a dresser in a room of a house: “Dump this out.”

“See the green door? Take the hammer and break it.”

“Everyone in the neighborhood is dead. Open the door.”

“Break the window.”

“Let him (Palestinian civilian) go in first.” Upon entering an unsecured home.

“Break bedroom door.”

“Play kung fu and open the door.”

“This home is good. We will sleep here.”

“Just die!”

“I must shoot them all one by one.”

“We will split it 50-50.” Upon looting a home.

“Go!” “Bomb!” Upon watching the camp from afar being bombed.

“Death to Arabs.”

“No problem. All we have to do is cut off his arm.” Upon seeing blood on Eyyad’s arm.

“What’s your name? What’s wrong with you? Speak up. Talk to us.” Upon kicking and hitting a 55-year old man they just beat to death.

“He’s dead.”

“Do you use weapons or explosives? Do you know anyone who does?”

“We will kill all the fighters in the camp and it will all be over soon. Give my regards to your children. Go back home. You have a little girl to support. Do nothing but work to support her.”

“Kill this one. We have to hurt this one. Let’s get rid of him.”

“You’re going to prison in Ofer. This is the prison of death.”

“You are going to die. You are wanted.”

“It is forbidden to return to your homes in the camp or Jenin during the Israeli military operation. If you try, we will shoot you or take you to prison in the Negev. We will finish by Thursday. All the resistance will be dead and then you can go back. We are taking you to Romani and listen to the news for when it is time to go back.”

“Go to Romani. It is forbidden to leave it either.”

Kemal Tawalby Abu Mohammed

“Every five minutes kill one of these people and throw him out to the streets, starting with children.”

“We have to kill them here, because if they go back to the camp, they will start shooting. They must die here.”

Ahmad Naimeh and Khozaman Khazam

“Open the door! Open the door! “Get out!” [from their home]

“Life up your shirts.”

“Lie on the ground!”

“Why are you looking?” When peeking through his blindfold.

“We have nothing on you.”

“You may not return to your homes in Jenin. Stay in Romani and listen to the news. After you hear that we have withdrawn from the camp, you can go home. If we see you [anywhere but Romani] we will shoot you.”

“You want your homes in the Jenin Refugee Camp now. Then you will want Umm Fahem, Haifa, and Akko.”

Ali Kemal Hussein Noorsy

“Shut up!”

“You don’t deserve to exist. You are terrorists.”

“My brother was killed in one of your operations.”

“We want to kill you! You don’t like to live. You love to die for Palestine.”

“After one hour we will take you to Salim.”

“No!”

“There is no doctor here. Maybe one can see you after two hours.”

“Let him go.”

Fariel Tawfiq Shelaby

“Go out [from the camp]. You don’t have anything here. We will bomb you if you don’t come.”

“You must not come back [to the camp].”

Jihad Ahmed Mohammed Hanoun

“Hurry!”

“It’s time for you to die. Choose the way you want to die.”

“No, I won’t make the pain stop. I want to take your eyes out. Choose your right or your left.”

“You must choose.”

Jihad: “What I have done wrong that you treat me this way? I’m a peaceful man and was sitting with my family.”

Israeli interrogator: “You didn’t come out of your house. This is war. We cannot separate fighters from civilians.”

“I have not eaten and it is because of you that I am here.”

“You are not allowed to go home; only to Romani. If you hear on the news you can go back, then you can go back. If anyone tries to go back, we will catch him and put him in jail. If we can’t catch you we will shoot you.”

Khalil Ahmad Tawalby

“Forbidden.”

“Who are the fighters?”

“Who are the fighters?”

“Who is Mahmoud Tawalby? What does he do?”

Miriam Mustafa Mohammed Damaj

“Come out! Get out of your homes!”

“This is not a taxi.” What the soldiers told her daughters when they asked to go with their mother, who was placed on top of an APC unaccompanied and driven away.

Mohammed Irsal Amal Kreneh

“Do you have guns?”

“You must stay here. You cannot go anywhere. If you need to go to the toilet, knock on the door and ask the guard at the door.”

“If you need food, we will give you some of ours—if there is any left after we eat.”

“No, go back to your home.”

“Absolutely not. Go back to your house.”

“You cannot go [to Jenin]. That is not our fault. Our officers said no.”

Muheed Ahmed

“You are a terrorist.”

Rabia Mahmoud Salim Saleh

“Who wants to become a martyr?” Who wants 72 virgins?”

“All you people need to die. I will throw you into the sea. I will put you in jail for 15 years.”

The soldiers were cursing their fathers and mothers. Soldiers told them that if they returned to the camp they would be shot.

Rami Abu Ghalon

“These are not phones, these are bombs.” Upon confiscating their cell phones.

“Walk to the tanks.”

“Who are the fighters?”

“What do you know about Mahmoud Tawalby?”

Sa’ed Saleh Hosheeya

“Leave him there until he dies.” Upon trying to rescue an injured man in the street.

“If you try we will shoot you.” Upon trying to rescue an injured person.

“We will treat you as normal people,” said the soldiers.

I remarked, “We are medical workers!”

“There are no medical workers here.”

“I’m leaving to help people.”

“Do you think we are your friends?”

Shut up!”

“What are the names of the martyrs?” inquired the soldiers.

“I can’t remember.”

“What are the names of the fighters?”

“When I see the Apache helicopters I forget even my own name.”

“It is forbidden to return to your homes. You can go back three days after you hear on the news we have left Jenin.”

“Go back!” Upon trying to retrieve a baby standing alone in the street.

Sa'id Hamdan

They [the soldiers] took a 2-year old child, put a gun to his head and said, “How would you like to die?”

They took my nephew and he feigned heart problems. They blindfolded him, put a tank of gas in front of him, and said, “We want to kill you.”

Samir Abu Wahab

The soldiers wrote “Terrorist” on our foreheads.

“What is your work? Where do you stay in the camp? Where were you when we took you?” If we answered, “We were in the house,” they beat us.

“You are a terrorist.”

“Where do you work? Where does your brother work? Why was your uncle a martyr?”

“Where do you work?”

”With the vegetables”

“You are a liar.”

You have a gun? Maybe in your house?”

“No.”

“You were working with the PA.” I said, “No I don’t.”

They asked me if I had done or was planning to do an operation. I said no.

They took me to another person and they said, “We want the whole truth from you.” This whole time I was blindfolded and bound.

“You work for the PA. You are bringing arms to them.”

“No”

“Are you thinking of doing any operations?”

“No.”

“Do you know anyone who is going to do an operation?”

“What do you want to tell us?”

“Nothing. I have done nothing.”

“Tell us anything you have done and we will let you go.”

I didn’t tell them anything. I didn’t have anything to tell them.

“Go, get out.”

“What is the name of your father, mother, grandmother, sister, and everyone in the family?”

Aish

“Open the door.”