

The JENIN INQUIRY.org

Report on the Israeli Invasion of Jenin Refugee Camp Appendix F: Quiet Execution, 13 August 2002

Brian Wood in Phone Conversation with Caoimhe Butterly

Though the mass media has largely fallen from the stage of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, it is inappropriate to consider the Middle East without problems. Bearing the brunt of the burden are the impoverished, hungry, unemployed Palestinian population fighting for liberation from the longest running colonization project in recent history. If there was a shadow of doubt previously, the suffering of Palestine under Israeli military colonization is clearly shown not important enough to write stories about, photograph, or plot on any moral map. Palestinians have been kicked out of humanity. It is also important to repeat that the following events are carried out mostly with weapons given to Israel by the US as part of the largest foreign aid package the US gives to any country.

On Sunday 11 August, Israeli soldiers went to the home of the leader of the Al-Aqsa Martyr's Brigades in the village of Yamoun in Jenin District. They arrested him, took him to the back of his home, and executed him.

Around the 5th of August in Tulkarem, Israeli soldiers found the leader of the Al-Aqsa Martyr's Brigades of the city. The soldiers shot three people they were not after. One was a mechanic standing in the doorway of his shop. Another was an 18-year old boy celebrating in the street upon completing his comprehensive high school exams. Both were shot once in the head. Information on the third male is not available. The man they were after, Ziad, was treated even worse. The soldiers released attack dogs on him, who left him nearly without skin on the lower portion of his body. Then, the soldiers approached and broke every limb on his body. Only after these measures did they execute him. The right side of his head was missing after the bullet, fired from point blank range, was shot.

Knowing that few people would actually view the bodies of the deceased or hear from the Palestinian eyewitnesses, the Israeli press reported that four Tanzim activists were killed in a gun battle. This story circulated far and wide in the press the following day.

Funerals in Palestine take place very quickly, even the same day. They are large processions of people who carry the body of the deceased upon an open stretcher and walk to the cemetery.

The three persons not on the wanted list that were killed in Tulkarem had funerals, though the Israeli military only allowed ten people to attend each. Many people, then, were not allowed to attend the funerals of their family members. Since Ziad was a leader and more well known, the Israeli military allowed 50 people to attend his funeral. However, in trying to march to the cemetery, soldiers in military jeeps followed the

procession, firing live ammunition in the air, driving very close to the mourners, and revving up their engines to frighten the people.

After the funeral, several men stayed behind talking in the cemetery. Suddenly, a special forces team quickly encircled the cemetery, placing snipers all around it, and several soldiers stormed the men at the grave. They were detained for a while and then finally released.

In a ten-day period at the beginning of August, Israeli military personnel blew up 12 homes in the Jenin Refugee Camp and the city. Most of the homes belong to the families of men Israel wants to arrest for resisting colonization and cannot catch. In place of executing them or arresting them, they blew up the homes of their families, who were not on the list of persons Israel wants to arrest or kill. Two days prior to this ten-day period, three entire apartment buildings were blown up. Inhabitants of the Jenin Refugee Camp, whose homes the Israeli military bulldozed in April 2002, were renting most of the apartments in these buildings. Children were digging through the rubble of their apartment trying to find their belongings in the exact fashion they did in the Refugee Camp only four months earlier.

Continuing the fascination the Israeli military has with explosives, they blew up the building housing the Ministry of Social Affairs in Jenin. This is the Ministry that is trying to care for all the refugees from the refugee camp regarding housing, food, water, and clothes.

None of these developments have been reported in the media and most have not been available through alternative news sources on the internet. The quiet execution of Palestinian leaders and the many exploding homes and lives are taking place in an envelope of silence. For those who witness these events, for those who live with the loss of their loved ones thereafter, their suffering remains unnoticed, unreported, and therefore, undiscussed.

It is incredibly urgent that the US stop providing Israel with foreign aid that is used to commit extrajudicial executions, bombing of Palestinian cities, destruction of Palestinian civil society, and continued colonization. The US and the people's taxes are making the above-mentioned events possible through foreign aid to Israel. If people in the US who know of these crimes do not pressure the government in mass soon, larger operations of similar content will be enacted. Do people of the US want to continue funding executions? If not, go to the streets and tell the government "Enough! Cut foreign aid to Israel now."