

CHILDREN OF THE STONES

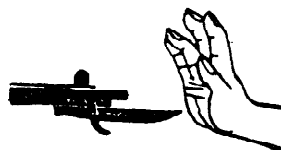
Palestinian **C**enter for the **S**tudy of **N**on-Violence

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Occupied Jerusalem

via Israel

Palestinian
Center for the
Study of
Non-Violence



المركز
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INTRODUCTION

The "Children of the Stones" have galvanized public opinion and acquired the admiration of people throughout the world for their brave confrontation with the heavily-armed Israeli soldiers occupying the West Bank and Gaza. Yet, this glorious achievement was bought at a very dear price. Both they and other children who did not participate in demonstrations or stone-throwing became vulnerable targets to Israeli repression.

The following report documents the suffering of such youngsters, as reported by credible witnesses. The Palestinian Center for the Study of Nonviolence publishes this report not to further glorify the behavior of these children, but from our belief that childhood is a precious treasure that must be protected by the adults in this world. These children deserve a childhood of play, games and happiness like children everywhere and not the reality of fear, repression and physical violence which they experience daily in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

It is the responsibility of all adults in this world to ensure that our children can look forward to a future of peace, security and a future free from fear, violence and occupation or oppression.

The Palestinian Center for the Study of Nonviolence invites you to join with us to do everything we can so that these children can achieve such a future.

Sincerely,

M. E. Awad
Mubarak E. Awad



ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am responding to your letter of November 20, concerning alleged mistreatment of young Palestinians by Israeli authorities. Since the State Department's reply to your September subcommittee question there have been important developments on the subject of how juvenile prisoners are treated in Israeli military prisons.

In late October, five guards from the "Ansar II" military prison in Gaza were convicted of mistreatment of Palestinian juvenile prisoners. Some of the juveniles they mistreated were mentioned in the report you cited in your letter.

In early November, General Aram Mitza, Officer in Charge of the IDF Central Command, announced that the Commander and most of the staff of the FARA military prison in the West Bank had been dismissed and had been replaced by "more professional" military police personnel. In the same announcement he said that new regulations had been adopted for the detention and treatment of juvenile prisoners. Among the changes was a requirement that approval of the legal advisor for the Occupied Territories would be needed to arrest anyone under 14 years of age "to ensure that children are not imprisoned without sufficient reason". In addition new procedures were to be instituted "to enable better control over how children aged 12 to 14 are treated in prison".

Jewish and Arab human rights groups in Israel and the Occupied Territories attribute both of the above developments to the publication of the report which you cited. They have told our Embassy in Tel Aviv that they welcome these developments, but that they will reserve judgment on the policy changes until they can evaluate the results. They also note that the occupation authorities still consider anyone over 14 to be an adult.

The Honorable

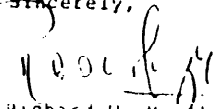
Lee H. Hamilton, Chairman, Subcommittee on
Europe and the Middle East,
House of Representatives.

Concurrent with the developments mentioned above, an independent judicial commission (The Landau Commission), appointed by Prime Minister Shamir, issued its report which confirmed that Palestinian prisoners were routinely physically and psychologically mistreated during interrogation.

The findings of the Landau Commission, the actions of the Israeli occupation authorities in changing the staff of the FARA prison, the conviction in an Israeli court of prison guards from the "Ansar II" Prison, and our further study of the report which you cite, lead us to believe that charges of mistreatment of Palestinian young people by some Israeli authorities have been largely substantiated.

We have expressed our concern about the treatment of juvenile detainees to the Government of Israel and will continue to monitor the situation.

Sincerely,


Richard W. Murphy
Assistant Secretary of State
Bureau of Near East and
South Asian Affairs

ADDITIONAL CASES

"He wanted to save his mother and tried to go to her in order to carry her back into the house. One of the soldiers shot him, once in each leg. He fell to the ground ... he was shot again ... this time in the abdomen."

Moslem Al-Haddad

A F F I D A V I T

MONA AL-WAHEDI, 21 years old, Gaza City (girl): Yesterday, January 31, 1988, at 5:00 p.m., there was a Palestinian flag on the electricity wires. The Israeli soldiers ordered a man who is 27 years old to climb up and take down the flag. He refused, saying, "I can't touch the wires, or I will die." The Israeli soldier replied, "you and everybody else in Gaza should die." Then the Israeli soldiers started to beat the man with their wooden truncheons, on his neck, legs, head, arms. This lasted for about five minutes, five troops beating one man for five minutes. There was also a tire lying on the road which appeared to be burned. The soldiers took the tire and started knocking on the doors of nearby homes. Some people refused to open up. Others opened their doors. The soldiers set fire to the tire inside one of the houses and ordered the woman in the house not to put it out. One of the Israeli soldiers went and got another tire and put it on the furniture and on the carpets. The woman began to shout. The Israeli soldiers beat her. Neighbors rushed in to help the woman. One of the neighbors called the Red Cross and two representatives arrived soon after.

A F F I D A V I T

FAIZ MUSA ISMAEL ABU-JAI'ID, 24 years old, Beit Hanun, Gaza Strip: About 9:00 a.m. on January 14, 1988, I was walking through a farm area in Beit Hanun. Israeli soldiers stopped me and all the other young men who were in the area. They ordered us to clear the streets of stones and burning tires and to put them into the neighboring houses. They ordered me, personally, to bring a bucket of white paint and paint over what was written on the walls in the street. When I finished doing this, the Israeli soldiers poured what remained of the paint over my head.

After I'd washed the paint off my head, I was ordered to stand with the other young men against the wall. The Israeli soldiers then began to beat the others but did not beat me. When the soldiers finished beating the others, they took me to a corner and beat me all over my body. They broke my left hand and I needed eight stitches for a head injury. My entire body is covered with bruises.

A F F I D A V I T

MOSLEM MOHAMMED AL-ABED AL-HADDAD, 35 years old, Gaza City: On January 30, 1988, at about 3:00 p.m., jeeps loaded with Israeli soldiers arrived in our neighborhood and broke into our homes. The soldiers forced all the men and children out into the streets and beat them. I asked the soldiers, "why do you beat them?" They told me to go inside my house, threatening to beat and shoot me. The women then came out of the houses. The Israeli soldiers started to beat them, too, and fired shots into the air and at the ground. One of the women who was beaten was Saida Al-Almad Al-Haddad. When her son,

Tawfiq, saw that the Israeli soldiers were beating his mother, he became very angry. He wanted to save his mother and tried to go to her in order to carry her back to the house. One of the soldiers shot him, once in each leg. He fell to the ground. While he lay on the ground, he was shot again by the Israeli soldiers, this time in the abdomen. The soldiers started shooting at random, in all directions, and Manal Ramadan Saida Al-Haddad got a bullet in her hand while she was sitting on her roof on the top floor of a neighboring house. When we tried to carry away the injured man, the Israelis shot at us. Eventually we managed to get him to a car. The Israeli soldiers then shot at the wheels, parts of the bullets are still embedded in the tires. We transferred him to another car. The Israeli soldiers beat the driver of the car and thus prevented him from driving. Shortly afterwards, the Israelis permitted us to take the injured man, Tawfiq, out of the camp. I also want to say that after we'd left the camp, the Israeli soldiers beat the driver of an ambulance which had arrived from Shifa hospital.