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## *Intifada leaders prepare for future Palestinian government*

The Unified National Command of the Uprising has initiated steps to prepare for an underground Palestinian government in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In anticipation of a Palestine National Council (PNC) decision to declare an independent Palestinian state and form a provisional government, the leadership of the uprising has formed specialized committees and entrusted them with the task of drafting working papers on how various aspects of daily life should be administered in the West Bank and the Strip.

The PNC is expected to meet sometime in October, and *intifada* leaders are hoping the Palestinians' parliament-in-exile will carry their revolt to its natural conclusion and name a provisional government for an

independent state of Palestine.

The newly formed committees group educators, physicians, engineers, economists, agriculture experts and other specialists. They have been working for weeks on a framework of government that can be put into effect the moment the PLO gives the word.

Initial reports indicate that the committees are leaning in favor of establishing ministry-like departments that would control and guide life in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in much the same way the Unified National Command has been directing the *intifada*. Leaders and officers of the various departments would remain anonymous and maintain contact with the people through leaflets.

## *The mark of the intifada*

*Israeli central bank  
reports damage to  
the tourism,  
construction, textile  
and business sectors*

The Bank of Israel announced on September 22 that the *intifada* had undermined the country's tourism industry and reduced the productivity of the construction and business sectors.

In its latest report, the Israeli central bank also reported a drop in the domestic production of textiles and cement.

It attributed dwindling tourism revenues to the reluctance of foreigners, including Jews, to come to the Jewish state as long as the Palestinians were in revolt. Israel had expected 1988, the year of its 40th anniversary, to be a bonanza year in tourism. Grandiose plans to attract a record number of tourists collapsed as thousands of Americans and Europeans opted to vacation elsewhere this summer amid reports of rising violence in the Occupied Territories, where most of the tourist attractions are concentrated, and in Israel itself. Round-the-clock efforts by the Israeli tourism authorities to set potential visitors' minds at ease and to use the argument of solidarity to force American and European Jews to visit Israel led nowhere.

The Bank of Israel said the decline in construction and cement and textile production was primarily due to the absence of Arab workers, who boycotted Israeli firms for long periods on the instructions of the *intifada* leadership.

The decline in the business sector's productivity, set at two percent, was attributed to the increased absence of Israeli workers, whose annual tours of reserve duty with the Israeli army have been doubled since the *intifada* began last December.



## Another Israeli prisoner of conscience

*'I refuse to participate in a crime,' says author Morris as he goes to jail for rejecting orders to serve in the Occupied Territories*

An Israeli author last week became the 39th reservist to go to jail for refusing to serve with the occupation forces in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Benny Morris, 39, diplomatic correspondent of Israel's *Jerusalem Post* and author of the much acclaimed historical work, *The Birth of the Palestinian Refugee*

*Problem, 1947-1949*, was sentenced to 21 days in jail by the Israeli army for rejecting an order to report for duty in the Occupied Territories.

### EVIL

"I refuse to participate in a crime," Morris said in a formal statement, "and Israeli behavior in the territories since the start of the

*intifada* is a major collective crime... The occupation was always wrong and bad, both for Israelis and Palestinians. Now it is evil."

Morris had recently come in for intense criticism by Israelis in and out of power for the conclusions he reached in his book about the Palestinian refugees.

The book, built on painstaking research, has been hailed as "the most thorough attempt to tackle the subject" and described as a work that "can hardly be surpassed for either its scholarship or its dispassionate approach."

*The Birth* attempts to settle the 40-year-old argument on why so many Palestinians left their country between 1947 and 1949. The Palestinians have long held that the major factor that triggered the exodus was a systematic Jewish terror campaign aimed at civilians, including women and children, in various Palestinian villages. They have noted that the primary trigger was massacres such as the one perpetrated by Jewish terrorists in Deir Yassin in 1948, when that village's entire population was slaughtered. The Israelis, on the other hand, have said that most of the Palestinians left of their own accord, encouraged by broadcasts from neighboring Arab countries and the Arab High Committee that urged them to evacuate their villages to make way for the invading Arab armies.

### EVIDENCE

Morris, after poring over transcripts of Arab broadcasts of those years, found no evidence of any Arab evacuation orders.

He also found no evidence of an overall Jewish policy aimed at expelling all Palestinians, but he became convinced that Jewish

## Casualties of peace

*Israeli soldier jailed for talking to Palestinians, and peace crusader Abie Nathan awaits his day in court*

A 53-year-old Israeli soldier is serving a 14-day jail term for talking peace with Palestinians while on duty in the West Bank.

The soldier, American-born Hillel Bardin, was jailed on September 18 and was due to be released on October 1.

Bardin was convicted by a court-martial on charges of holding negotiations with Palestinian leaders to reduce violence in the Occupied Territories.

Among the Palestinians he spoke with were Ramallah lawyer Jonathan Kuttub, Bir Zeit University Professor Sari Nusseibeh, and Arab Journalists' Association President Radwan Abu-Ayyash.

He reportedly told them he would try to convince his commanders not to break up Palestinian demonstrations in return for Palestinian assurances that the protests would be peaceful.

His initiative, an army spokesman said, was "against the army law."

### NATHAN

Meanwhile, Israeli peace activist Abie Nathan, proprietor of the offshore Voice of Peace radio station, is out on 5,000 shekels' bail, but he still faces a possible trial and a maximum sentence of three years for meeting with PLO Chairman Yaser Arafat and other PLO officials in Tunis, New York and Strasbourg earlier this month.

It was in response to a question by Abie Nathan at a news conference in Strasbourg on September 14 that Arafat wished the Jews of Israel and the world "Shana Tova" (happy new year) and declared his readiness to "meet any Israeli official who is prepared to meet me at the UN."

Arafat also told Abie Nathan at the same conference: "As you are the voice of peace in the region, I say to you that peace is worth sacrifices such as the jail sentence with which (Israeli Premier Yitzhak) Shamir has threatened you and others who have met with us."



## A Sabra and Shatila encore

Israel celebrated the sixth anniversary of the Sabra and Shatila massacre on September 17 by killing three Palestinians, including a little girl, injuring over 30, arresting more than 200, and placing 400,000 under curfew.

In the 1982 massacre, hundreds of unarmed Palestinians were slaughtered in Beirut's Sabra and Shatila refugee camps by Lebanese militiamen supported by Israeli troops, who had invaded Lebanon that year and were in control of the Lebanese capital.

Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip marked the day with widespread demonstrations accompanied by a general strike called by the Unified National Command of the Uprising.

### NAHIL

Israeli troops attacked demonstrators in various parts of the Occupied

*Israeli troops open fire on Palestinians commemorating the 1982 massacre*

Territories, using live ammunition, plastic bullets, tear gas and clubs.

A 13-year-old Palestinian girl, Nahil Tokheh, was shot in the head with a plastic bullet. She died in hospital a week later.

The other two Palestinians killed during the demonstrations were identified as Imad Arkawi, 18, who was shot in the West Bank town of Jenin, and Munjid Ismail Farhan, 26, who died in the village of Loubn ash-Sharkiya near Nablus, also in the West Bank.

Of the 30-plus

injured, observers noted that two sustained bullet wounds in the West Bank town of Kalkilya. The town had just emerged from eight days of round-the-clock curfew during which Israeli troops, veiling their actions from the eyes of the world with a tight military siege and a total news blackout, roamed free in the various neighborhoods, conducting house-to-house searches, beating up residents and arresting over 300 Palestinians about whom nothing has been heard since then.

September 18 saw the occupation forces still wreaking havoc in Kalkilya and other West Bank and Gaza towns, with several soldiers breaking into Kalkilya's hospital and beating up several doctors and nurses.

Kalkilya residents told reporters after the Israeli troops pulled out that their resistance to the occupation would continue and escalate "soon," but few expected the town to be back in action this soon (*see the September 16 and 23 issues of Intifada*).

The people of Kalkilya observed the September 17 strike with the rest of the Occupied Territories, and demonstrations erupted in several neighborhoods, bringing Israeli troops back with their guns, tear-gas arsenals and clubs.

By September 19, Palestinian injuries had climbed to a three-day total of 50.

atrocities were a decisive factor in the flight of the Palestinians.

David Ben-Gurion, founder and first prime minister of Israel, Morris said, might have been careful not to commit many orders to paper, but he and other Jewish leaders were convinced that Israel would fare far better with as few Palestinians left within its borders as possible -- not only because that would make room for future Jewish immigrants but also because they feared an Arab "fifth column" in the new state.

Given those beliefs, which were general knowledge at the time, local Jewish commanders took the initiative of coercing or otherwise encouraging the flight of the Palestinian population. "In general," Morris wrote, "in most cases the final and decisive precipitants to flight was (Jewish terrorist organizations) Haganah, IZL, LHI or (after the establishment of the state) IDF attacks or the inhabitants' fear of such attacks."

Also contributing to the exodus,

he said, was the identity and lack of coordination and communication among the Palestinians.

American journalist David Wemple, assessing the book in a recent book review, wrote: "Morris' earlier characterization of the Palestinian condition needs updating. The *intifada* is many things today that Palestinians were not in 1947: disciplined, united, goal-oriented and in possession of a leadership with an agenda. No doubt the Israeli establishment has noticed the change."



## What Mazen forgot

*Palestinian emerges from five months of torture mute & suffering from amnesia*

A Palestinian who was taken to prison in perfect health last April was released on September 18 suffering from amnesia and unable to speak.

Mazen Masouda, 25, resident of the Hebron area of the West Bank, remains mute and unable to remember anything at this writing. Doctors who have examined him say he has suffered a series of

trauma during his five months in prison, including severe beatings and other forms of torture, and it is impossible to say if or when he will regain his memory and power of speech.

Repeated protests by international organizations, foreign governments and some Israeli groups have failed to put a stop to torture in Israeli prisons -- a

practice that the Israelis routinely deny despite overwhelming evidence that it is a permanent feature in most jails and prison camps.

### DESCRIPTION

A Jerusalem resident who was arrested in al-Aizariyeh, east of Jerusalem, on July 3, 1988, and spent 18 days in the Hebron prison, recently wrote a detailed description of his experience.

The former prisoner, who asked to be identified only as M.J., wrote in part:

"My hands were handcuffed behind my back, a blindfold made of some kind of coarse cloth was tied around my eyes, and I was thrown into a military vehicle. After a 20-minute drive, I was told to get out and led into a large room where my handcuffs and blindfold were removed. This was a prison in Bethlehem. There were several mattresses on the floor and a metal pail in the corner.

"All night, soldiers would come in bringing more prisoners. All the prisoners were very young -- less than 16 years old -- and all had been beaten severely on the way. Most of them were soon after taken away, some to the Zahiriyah prison in Hebron, others to Ramallah and other jails. This room, I discovered, was a sort of holding pen from which prisoners were distributed to the various jails. I stayed in it a full day. No one offered me any food. I was not allowed to go to the bathroom.

### HOT

"On the evening of the second day, the soldiers came in, handcuffed and blindfolded me again, and dragged, pushed and pulled me out of the building. Two of them lifted me bodily and threw me into a truck. They made me sit

### The snake and Awad Hamdan

Torture in Israeli prisons is a time-honored tradition that pre-dates the *intifada*, as the case of Awad Hamdan illustrates.

Hamdan, 21, was taken to Jenin prison in July, 1987. Two days after his arrest, his family was informed that he was dead.

Asked how he had died, the Israeli army gave three different answers. One officer said he died of a heart attack. Another blamed it on pneumonia. A third said the young man had been bitten by a snake.

None of the explanations convinced the Hamdan family, who saw signs of torture on Awad's body. The matter was taken to court, and Israeli judges delayed looking into it as long as they could. Two months after Awad's death, in September, 1987, the Israeli High Court ordered the authorities to "give reason" why the real cause of death should not be revealed. The authorities sat on the order for a year.

On September 7, 1988, hounded by the Hamdans' lawyer, Felicia Langer, the High Court once more ordered the authorities to specify the cause of the death of Awad Hamdan, and gave them a fortnight to do so.

### NEGLIGENCE

That day, Israel's *Jerusalem Post* wrote that "the cause of death could easily be surmised as early as last February, when the attorney general ordered (the Shin Bet operative who interrogated Awad) to be put to trial for 'the death through negligence of an Arab suspect, Awad Hamdan.' The trial is now scheduled to begin next month (October), and it will be held behind closed doors."

What remains to be seen is exactly what the Israeli attorney general described as "negligence." Did the Shin Bet interrogator use too much power in his electrical torture of Awad? Did he twist the rope too tightly around Awad's neck? And if so, is he guilty of "negligence" or cold-blooded murder?

Lawyer Felicia Langer said last week she knew exactly how Awad had died: she had documents to prove that he was killed by suffocation.



## Irish Tourist Board attacked for 'fearsome lack of morality'

Sean T. Ryan, director of the Palestine Information Office in Dublin, has attacked the Irish National Tourist Board for agreeing to participate in a tourism convention in Israel promoted by the Association of British Travel Agents.

The convention, which will include a golf tournament, is scheduled to be held in Jerusalem in October.

In a recent speech delivered in the Irish capital, Ryan said, "bearing in mind the horrors of the brutality that the Palestinian people are suffering, the holding of this tourist convention in Jerusalem is an obscenity, and the Irish National Tourist Board, Bord Failte, is participating in this obscenity."

### ILLEGAL

He added: "Is it necessary for the Irish tourist industry to collaborate with Israel in justifying its illegal annexation of East Jerusalem, which has been condemned by both the Security Council and General Assembly of the United Nations?"

Ryan, noting that the Israelis had so far murdered over 300 Palestinian men, women and children, said: "Palestinian demonstrators have been shot to death, beaten to death, and even gassed to death. The Israelis are even waging war on the unborn. As a result of their policy of throwing toxic gas grenades into homes, at least 1,800 premature births have taken place, the babies stillborn."

Since the Irish government had strongly condemned Israel's savagery, and other condemnations had come from Irish local councils, trade unions and student unions, "it will come as a great shock... when Irish people discover that (Bord Failte) is willing to give at least tacit approval to the activities of the Israelis," Ryan said.

He attacked as an instance of "fearsome lack of morality" the Irish Tourist Board's argument that it was participating in the event because it was sponsored by British travel agents who are vital for Irish tourism. "Is Bord Failte justified, for whatever 'commercial reasons' it may advance, in making a mockery of the very progressive policy of the Irish government?" he asked.

on a platform which turned out to be the casing of the engine. Shortly after the truck started moving, the engine became intolerably hot. I thought I was going to burst into flames, but I could do nothing about it. Every time I opened my mouth I was beaten. Every time I tried to move I was kicked.

"I was totally exhausted when we arrived at the Hebron prison, and I was bruised all over my body. The soldiers removed my handcuffs and blindfold, threw me out of the truck and showered my head with blows as they pushed me into the prison. Inside, the prison guards took everything I had on me and led me to the prison doctor, who asked me if I was suffering from anything. I showed him my bumps and bruises, and he said, 'That's not serious.' I was taken to the second floor, where I saw several cells. There was total silence, except for the shouts of the guard and his assistant, who locked me up in one of the cells.

"The interrogation starts as soon as a prisoner gets into jail. The guard comes in, leads the prisoner out, handcuffs him, puts a bag over his head, and hands him to another guard, who pulls him (usually by the bag) to the interrogation room. The guard makes the route to that room as long as possible, and makes sure that his unseeing charge bumps into walls and doors and stumbles down or upstairs.

### METHODS

"Interrogation methods in the Hebron prison are largely similar to those in other prisons, but they do differ in some respects. For instance:

"The closet: I think the Hebron prison is unique in the use of this technique. The closet is barely big enough for one chair. The prisoner, still handcuffed and with the bag over his head, is ordered to sit in the chair, and the door is closed. How long the prisoner is left in there depends on the interrogator. It could be a matter of hours, or a full day, or several days. During this time the prisoner

finds it hard to breathe and impossible to sleep. Prisoners kept there for more than a day have experienced total physical breakdown.

"The pipe: In other prisons, there are rumors about the pipe. In the Hebron prison, it exists. The pipe is an iron bar fixed along the full length of a wall, at a height of around one meter. The prisoner, with the bag over his head, is tied to the bar, so that he is slightly bent over. In this position, he cannot stand up straight or sit down or lie down -- and he certainly cannot go to sleep. Within a very

short time, there's agony -- and the pipe ordeal rarely lasts a very short time.

"Another variation on the pipe theme: The prisoner is taken into a bathroom and ordered to lift his arms over his head. His hands are then tied to a high water pipe and he is left there for hours. With the circulation to his hands cut off, the pain is excruciating.

"The more usual types of torture are there, of course, including heavy blows to sensitive parts of the body, and continuous interrogation





that lasts for days during which the prisoner is not allowed to eat or go to the bathroom.

"Sometimes, the interrogator strangles the prisoner. He places his hand on his throat and presses until the prisoner can no longer breathe.

He holds that position for as long as he believes the prisoner can survive and then releases him.

"During the interrogation, the questioner makes sure the prisoner can hear the cries of pain coming from other interrogation rooms. He

also threatens several horrible things. He shows the prisoner a hypodermic needle, for instance, and tells him he is going to give him a shot of something that will make him impotent. Or he threatens to use electric shocks."

## Yitzhak's plastic fist

*'All the unpleasantness' in the Occupied Territories is causing Rabin 'stomach aches,' but he's still 'at one with himself'*

The Israeli defense minister, Yitzhak Rabin, said last week that the rising number of injuries among Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip was due to the increased use of plastic bullets by Israeli soldiers.

He was responding to questions about how his troops had managed to inflict grave injuries on 50 Palestinians in three days (September 17-19).

The plastic bullets, which are more lethal than rubber bullets, have been in use for several weeks, but on September 9 Rabin formally relaxed regulations which had allegedly regulated their use. He told the occupation forces they were free to fire the bullets at any Palestinian seen or suspected to be wielding a stone, and did not have to prove that they fired in self-defense.

### KILLED

Six days before Rabin issued his new instructions, dubbed by Palestinians "the Plastic Murder Order," an Israeli soldier using plastic bullets had shot and killed a 19-year-old Palestinian, Abdelkarim Mahmoud Barood, in Gaza's Rafah refugee camp.

The plastic bullets claimed their second known victim on Saturday, September 24 -- a 13-year-old girl identified as Nahil Tokheh.

Nahil was shot in the head with a plastic bullet on September 17, during the demonstrations marking the sixth anniversary of the Sabra and Shatila massacre (see "A Sabra and Shatila Encore" in this issue). She died in hospital a week later.

Asked how his soldiers could murder a little girl, one of the officers at the scene told a foreign reporter: "I don't know. It was a human mistake."

Rabin told an interviewer on Israel's army radio on September 20: "The use of additional means which have increased injuries for an interim period will bring a halt to disturbances."

### VISIT

To prove that his "plastic fist" was cowing the

Palestinians, the defense minister arranged a high-profile visit of the Gaza Strip town of Khan Younis on September 22.

The demonstration visit boomeranged, however, when Palestinian rebels launched an attack on the Israeli official, forcing him to drive out of the town at top speed.

Rabin, doing his best to look unworried, was visiting a shop in downtown Khan Younis when a building block came crashing down from the roof of a nearby building, smashing into a balcony and showering the area with debris. A hail of stones followed, and security men moved quickly, bounding Rabin into a bullet-proof car and speeding out of the area.

Asked about the attack later, Rabin told *Reuter*: "I didn't see anything."

To which a Gaza resident responded: "Rabin is not the only Israeli leader who suffers from poor vision."

### STOMACH

Rabin earlier told an interviewer that he also suffered from "stomach ache."

"I won't deny," he said in an interview with the Israeli daily *Haaretz*, "that at the present time we have stomach ache when our soldiers confront civilians, including women and children," but "despite all the unpleasantness, I am at one with myself, personally and functionally."

An *intifada* leader in Khan Younis said he was not surprised the defense minister referred to over 300 murdered Palestinians, thousands of injured and thousands more under illegal detention as "unpleasantness."

"And I wouldn't be surprised if he and his colleagues were having occasional stomach pains," he said. "I'm sure Adolf Hitler's digestive problems were caused in part by thoughts of what he was doing to the Jews of Europe, but Adolf, like Yitzhak, tolerated his stomach upsets because he was convinced that 'all the unpleasantness' was necessary."



## The assault on Palestinian children

*The Israelis resume their war against Palestinian schools, and educators and intifada leaders prepare to fight back*

The Israeli occupation authorities shut down 14 education centers in the West Bank city of Nablus on September 19 in a continuing drive against education in the Occupied Territories.

The centers, Palestinian sources said, provided supplementary courses for secondary school students.

Earlier this month, the Israelis moved against the an-Najah University Friends' Association in Nablus, closing it indefinitely. The association was accused of allowing students to use its premises for lectures.

### CLOSURE

Schools in the West Bank and Gaza Strip were scheduled to open in September, but the occupation authorities issued an order postponing the beginning of the school year until October 1. Israeli officials have since said that the closure may extend well beyond that date.

School principals in Nablus and other parts of the Occupied Territories have been told in meetings with Israeli officials over the past two weeks that the schools will remain closed until the *intifada* ends.

Before the summer recess, schools in the West Bank and Gaza Strip were closed for a total of four months -- almost half of the 1987-88 academic year -- and some were closed for longer periods.

A teacher in Beit Sahour, near Bethlehem, said last week that the town's students would go to school on October 1 no matter what orders the Israelis issued.

"If they think that keeping schools closed will prevent demonstrations, they are wrong," he said. "Our children will demonstrate every day all day long if their schools are not reopened."

The principal of a Ramallah private school said: "Maybe we should fight this (school closure order) the same way the merchants fought Israeli attempts to close their shops." Those attempts, aimed at punishing shopkeepers who obeyed the strike instructions of the *intifada* leaders, failed. Merchants forced to close their shops reopened them as soon as the Israeli troops were

out of sight.

Israel's closure of Palestinian schools and universities appears to be aimed not at averting student demonstrations, which have continued and escalated, but at punishing the Palestinians, who are known to value education highly and rank as the most literate people in the Middle East.

The punitive purpose of the anti-education campaign has been underscored by repeated Israeli attacks on "popular education" committees established in all parts of the territories by the Unified National Command of the Uprising. The committees, which have no purpose but to provide Palestinian children with the education they are missing at school, have become a primary target of the Israeli occupation forces.

In its regular communiques, the *intifada* leadership has urged the people of the Occupied Territories to double their popular education efforts and called on the international community to pressure Israel into reopening the schools.

### PARENTS

More recently, in preparation for another year of education disruption, the Unified National Command of the Uprising has formed a special education committee which has been distributing leaflets throughout the territories with instructions to parents on how to fill the gap in their children's education.

The leaflets urge parents to set aside at least two hours a day to teach their children reading, writing and mathematics. They advise them to concentrate on one subject at a time, make sure the children are not distracted during study hours, and encourage them to achieve by applying the reward and incentive system and avoiding punishment.

Once home education is firmly established, the leaflets say, neighbors can gradually come together and organize small neighborhood classes, entrusting qualified educators with the task of teaching.





## The olives of wrath

*Israel bans olive exports by unruly Palestinian villages*

In another demonstration of Israel's policy of collective punishment, the commander of the Israeli occupation forces in the West Bank confirmed last week that Palestinian villages in which protests are staged would be prevented from exporting their olive harvests to Jordan or anywhere else.

Major General Amram Mitzna said the economic sanctions policy was nothing new.

Over the past several months, villages on the Israeli black list were barred from selling their plum and grape harvests, and the export ban "will also be in effect during this year's olive harvest," he said.

In a meeting with his officers last week, Mitzna supported a proposal that blacklisted villages also be deprived of water and electricity. Water and power cuts have been often used as punitive measures against Palestinian towns, but they are now to be imposed more often and for longer periods, according to a foreign journalist who attended the meeting.

The journalist quoted Mitzna as saying that "it's important for these villages to know they can't clash

with the army without consequences."

Mitzna, who once argued that most Palestinians did not approve of the *intifada* and promised to lead the West Bank back to the "relative tranquility" of 1987, told the journalist that his views had since changed: he now realized that "many, if not most," of the Palestinians of the Occupied Territories were solidly behind the *intifada*, and his amended goal was to "keep violence down and keep the main West Bank roads open."

The *Washington Post*, which published Mitzna's remarks in its September 25 issue, reported that his officers "have many complaints. They have managed to keep the main roads clear of large demonstrations, but small groups of stone throwers still conduct random assaults on Israeli cars. Remote Arab villages are even more of a problem because the officers (who now have twice the number of troops at their disposal that they had last year) lack the manpower to patrol them constantly. 'Every time you go into one, you get stoned,' said an officer. 'Every time we go in and clean it, they come back the next day'."



## Yom Kippur's human sacrifice

*On their Day of Atonement, Israelis kill 1 Palestinian and injure 16*

Israeli occupation forces interrupted their Yom Kippur fast and reflections on September 21 to kill a Palestinian teenager and injure 16 people of all ages.

The Palestinian died of a slow death, as he was left without medical treatment for 24 hours because his captors wanted to make sure that his family would pay the hospital bill.

A senior UN official told *Reuters* that Hani Odeh Abu-Midian, 18, was shot in Gaza's Bureij refugee camp on Yom Kippur and taken to an army camp, where officers refused to transfer him to a hospital.

### BILL

A doctor from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) pleaded with the officers to rush the wounded boy to a hospital, but they said he had to be identified and his family had to be notified first.

The officers argued that if he was taken to hospital before any family member was contacted, there would be no guarantee that anyone would pay the bill.

The UN official said that "the United Nations is very concerned at the army practice of taking someone to an army camp instead of a hospital until they can be identified or a family member notified." He added that

UNRWA would file a formal complaint.

The occupation forces said Hani was shot because he was leading a demonstration in Bureij. They had no comment on Palestinian charges that they had earlier killed another Palestinian teenager for writing graffiti on a wall in Gaza City.

Imad Ismail Abu-Thoria, 18, was writing slogans on a wall in Gaza's Rimal quarter on September 15 when Israeli soldiers opened fire with live ammunition. He died in hospital on September 19 and was buried in Gaza's Sheikh Radwan quarter on September 20. Only a handful of relatives were allowed to attend the funeral - a precaution against the anger of Gaza residents who had heard how and why Imad was killed. Shortly after the funeral, however, demonstrations broke out in the Sheikh Radwan quarter, and Israeli troops prudently kept their distance.

Elsewhere in Gaza and the West Bank that day, however, Israeli troops were demonstrating their power in confrontations with Palestinian children. In Gaza City, an unidentified 11-year-old was shot and wounded, and in the village of Khillet al-Amoud near Nablus, an eight-year-old boy, Omar Abdelhadi Makhloof, was arrested.