

NPK-info

Nederlands Palestina Komitee www.palestina-komitee.nl

Inhoud

Actie: <http://www.freebarghouti.org/pet/main.html>

Zie <http://www.guardian.co.uk/international/story/0,3604,774753,00.html>

* Mandela bij proces Barghouti.

Zie:

* www.badil.org/Publications/Briefs/I&D_Briefs.htm.

* <http://www.upmrc.org/>

Hierna een noodoproep: Appeal from Nablus Under Siege
Help een einde te maken aan deze humanitaire ramp voor 3 miljoen burgers.
West Bank and Gaza Emergency Relief Fund: http://al-awda.org/wb_fund.htm
En politieke druk op Israel.

Pagina 2

En hierna

* Officers defend 'human shield' practice

* Tulkarm: a week of extreme violence, Rebecca Murray, August 14, 2002

* A Phone Call from Hell, Uri Avnery 10.8.02

Over acties om Israelische militairen aan te klagen voor oorlogsmisdaden.

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Pagina 5

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THE RIGHT TO A HOME AND A HOMELAND"

A Joint Israeli-Palestinian Campaign of Rebuilding Demolished Homes <http://www.rebuildinghomes.org>

Zie in De Groene Amsterdammer

* 3-8: "Israel volgens Hannah Arendt"

Citaat: "... over de staat Israel: Het zal een catastrofe worden..."

* 17-8: "Ga terug naar nergens" over stateloze Palestijnen in Nederland.

Geheugensteuntje over Jenin uit Trouw Ontbijtnieuws van 10 april 2002:

"Conflict Midden-Oosten / 'Jenin is verwoest, de straten liggen vol doden'

Minister Peres noemde het legeroffensief in Jenin gisteren een 'slachting'.

De Intifada-strijders die zich in het vluchtelingenkamp verschansen, willen zich niet levend overgeven. 's Avonds zette het leger F-16's in voor bombardementen."

Merkwaardig toch [het lange termijn geheugen is soms erg kort] dat niemand zich deze uitspraak van Peres herinnerde bij uitkomen onlangs van het bekritiseerde VN-rapport over Jenin [*].

NPK/WL, 21-8-2002 ■

P.S.

Groningen toont de fototentoonstelling Confronting Views, nog tot 25-8

Zie <http://www.noorderlicht.com/eng/projects/current.html>

[*] Zoals

Israel/OT: Jenin War Crimes Investigation Needed

HRW Press Release, May 3, 2002 Available online at: <http://hrw.org/press/2002/05/jenin0503.html>

Jenin: IDF Military Operations

HRW Report, May 2002 Available online at: <http://hrw.org/reports/2002/israel3/>

Israel: Decision to Block U.N. Inquiry Condemned

HRW Press Release, April 24, 2002, Available online at: <http://hrw.org/press/2002/04/un-inquiry0424.html>

*In de Palestijnse steden, dorpen en vluchtelingenkampen op de Westbank en Gaza geschiedt een ramp.
Zie onderstaande recente noodoproep!*

Een vraag om hulp.

Appeal from Nablus Under Siege

Dear Friends

Greetings from Nablus which has been languishing under a continuous curfew imposed by the Israeli military since June 20th with only sporadic lifting for a few hours every two weeks or so. Every single dimension of social, economic, cultural, and human life has been disrupted. And now, we have been struck by the latest Israeli aggression against the old city of Nablus, more specifically the Kasabah neighborhood, in which at least 3 Palestinians were killed, scores injured, homes demolished and the history of our ancient and beloved town erased from existence. This attack against our past, present and future can only be withstood with the support of freedom, peace, and justice loving people around the world.

It is from our specific location under siege--with food and medicine running out, water cut off and electric generators destroyed, children terrorized, and social, economic, and political developments stunted-- that we issue an appeal to all of you for you are our last and only hope. We ask you to intervene and use the resources at your disposal to pressure Israel to lift the curfew off Nablus and the other Palestinian communities that are held hostage to the whims of Sharon and his bloodthirsty government.

We are trying desperately to carry out our journalist mission and inform our public in Nablus of the developments on the ground. However, as you may already know, our job is dangerous and complicated. Not long ago, a colleague of ours, Nasser Ishtaia, of Reuters, lost his 4-day-old daughter, as they were stopped endlessly at Israeli checkpoints; other colleagues of ours were killed, injured or arrested by the Israeli military for no reason. In April, Israel decided to reoccupy all towns and villages in the West Bank. During that time, our station was shelled almost killing two of our reporters who refused to leave the station and insisted on giving the Nablus population news of what was going on. Unfortunately, heavy bullets and rockets shattered our studios completely destroying two transmitters and other equipments valued at over \$50,000.00 dollars (the sum may seem small to people in the US and Europe but it is a huge investment to us here).

Things are getting worse as days pass by. Unlike journalists elsewhere, our mission is not only to report the

news. We do not exaggerate when we say that we are the lifeline of this community. Before April and the direct Israeli re-occupation of Nablus, we used to give out a bulletin on the "road situation" every 15 minutes to inform our public of what back-roads people could take to get the injured and the ill to hospitals or to get some important documents processed (sometimes people outside of Palestine do not realize that no one would make a trip and pass Israeli checkpoint unless their trip were absolutely necessary. It is not just the danger involved in taking such a trip, but the hardship of walking long distances at the risk of being turned back and most importantly at an exuberant cost when people have no money for food, medicine, or water and electricity bills). These bulletins were heard by the population of Nablus and the surrounding villages and refugee camps, such as Balata, Askar, and Ein. We would issue an emergency bulletin every time someone spotted an Israeli patrol near the open roads and called on by Jawwal (local Palestinian mobile phones) to notify us. Now that the roads are completely blocked and no one comes in or leaves Nablus, we serve as the only source of information as we sadly announce the names of the martyrs to allow people to attend funerals and offer condolences--the only form of social support people can give to each other in the face of a continuous 24-hour curfew.

Life style has changed for everyone in Palestine: The high school general matriculation exams usually end by mid June. In Nablus, the Tawjeehi exams were delayed until the end of July. The delay in the taking, grading and posting the results of the exams (August 6th) has already deprived Palestinian high school students from much needed time to apply for and seek acceptance at Palestinian and other Arab universities. Most of the spots have already filled up and the road blocks and border closures, combined with the high cost of travel when 75% of Palestinians live below the poverty line (at \$2.00 per day for a family of four) will surely make it impossible for Palestinian students to enroll in colleges in September thus losing a year and maybe more of their future. Under normal circumstances, newspapers and school post the results of the high school exams. But since we are under curfew, no newspapers have reached Nablus for quite a while. Schools are the other place at which students find out their results. But most schools in Nablus have now been occupied by the Israeli military and turned into armed posts. As a result

of these obstacles, we decided to keep operating our radio station in order to announce the name of each student and the average she or he received in the exams on the air. Although this decision has cost us funds we do not have, not to mention the risk we took to get to the station to make the announcements, we were more than happy to bring some good news to our public that has had nothing but bad and worse news day after day. Students called to thank us and parents were celebrating their children's success; this made it all worth the risk.

Our services have also included receiving calls from ill people requesting medicine or medical advices. When we receive such a call, we contact doctors, neighbors and paramedics to provide medical aid to those who cannot otherwise obtain it. We have also called and have been called by families who were held hostage by the Israeli military. For example, on August 4th, we called Mr. Nidal Shafiee, who was locked up along with 97 other relatives and neighbors who live in the Freitekh building in the old city of Nablus. Mr. Shafiee explained on the air that the 98 people had no electricity, no water, and no baby milk. We contacted the relief committees who were able to get in through the Israeli military siege to provide help.

All of our services are free of charge. We are listed as a commercial radio station. We started out as a medium to promote social justice and human rights. We used to offer cultural and social analysis and cover all local and national news. We would get sponsors for various shows, especially from merchants who wanted to promote their business. Since the outbreak of the Aksa Intifada, however, we have not been able to raise funds to pay the salaries of our staff nor cover the phone, fax, mobile, or internet bills. We used to have a link to the

internet to broadcast live but we had to suspend it for lack of funds. Even before the recent Intifada, the Israeli military has seized our transmitters from the top of the Jerzim mountain under the pretext of stopping pirated Israeli radio stations. And although the Palestinian Authority has made it clear to its Israeli counterpart that we are a legitimate and fully licensed radio station, our transmitters were never returned to us nor were we compensated for their loss. As a result, we could no longer have broadcast coverage all over Palestine; we had to limit ourselves to Nablus and the northern parts of the West Bank. Now, even this is threatened by the Israeli occupation on one hand and the lack of funds on the other.

We therefore call on all of you to please help us in our mission. Continue and escalate your efforts to end the occupation of our land so that we could live freely and peacefully like all people on the face of the earth; we deserve no less than other human beings. And we also ask you to help us raise funds to support this station that is truly the only lifeline to the people of Nablus. We promise you that we will continue to resist all attempts to uproot us from our land and erase our identity. We hope that you can offer the support to allow us to maintain our sacrifices.

For Justice, Peace, and a free Palestine,

Amer Abdelhadi
General Manager

Tariq Al-Mahabbeh 97.7 FM
Nablus Under Siege

West Bank and Gaza Emergency Relief Fund:
http://al-awda.org/wb_fund.html ■

<http://www.haaretzdaily.com/hasen/pages/ShArt.jhtml?itemNo=198222&contrassID=2&subContrassID=1&sbSubContrassID=0&listSrc=Y>

Officers defend 'human shield' practice

By Jonathan Lis and Baruch Kra

Senior Israel Defense Forces officers yesterday defended the army's use of Palestinians to call wanted men out of hideouts or to tour homes suspected of containing booby traps, on the grounds that the method "saves lives, on our side and their side." According to IDF sources, the method was used in the capture of Marwan Barghouti, the Fatah leader now on trial on various counts of terrorism.

The issue has shot to the top of the public agenda with Wednesday's death of Nidal Muhsein, a 19-year-old from the village of Tubas, who was sent by the IDF to knock on the door of his neighbor's house where the

IDF suspected a wanted man, Nasser Jerar, was hiding. After he knocked, and the door opened, the youth - who had been put in an army flak jacket for the purpose - was cut down by shots fired from inside the house.

IDF and police sources refused yesterday to give an official count of the extent to which the method, known as "neighbor practice," is used, but all confirmed it is very extensive. One senior police officer said that it has been used "hundreds of times to reach wanted men and to comb houses for fear of booby traps. In recent months it has been used very often during the fighting."

The officer's account contradicts an army promise given by the state to the High Court of Justice in early May - as a result of petitions by several human rights groups - that the army would cease using civilians "in homes, streets, or wherever the IDF is operating" as "living shields" for IDF troops. The petitioners suspended their case to the court after that promise, and the court did not issue a verdict on the matter at the time. As a result of the Muhsein incident, the petitions are expected to be revived.

The "neighbor practice" is mostly used when trying to get a wanted man out of a house. Under such circumstances the army uses what it refers to as "a pressure cooker." First the troops surround the house, using megaphones to call out the wanted man. Then one of the neighbors is sent to call on the suspect to come out. At that point, if they don't respond, the neighbor is pulled back and troops open fire with anti-tank missiles and light weapons at the house. If that doesn't work, a bulldozer is brought in to knock down the house on top of the suspects inside.

Despite the public criticism, and the ostensible army order presumably handed down after the court hearing in May, the practice is widely used in the army, in an attempt to save lives - both Israeli and Palestinian, said some sources, while others just said Israeli.

"The fact that nobody was killed until the day before yesterday," said one officer, "is proof of how effective it is to send a neighbor to the door rather than just opening fire or risking life." In most cases, said the officer, "the suspect comes out on his own, without turning the arrest into a firefight and without endangering the soldiers, police or neighbors.

"In other cases, soldiers use Palestinians to comb houses being searched for weapons to make sure nothing is booby-trapped. The human rights group B'Tselem has collected testimony about this practice, and in May, as part of its petition to the court, the group presented testimony given by reserve officers who witnessed the practice.

One said that "it is very organized. First the house is surrounded, and then we knock on the door and announce it's the army. The men are asked to lift their shirts (lest they are wearing weapons or explosive belts)

and the women and children are put in a separate room. Then the men are taken on a search of the house. We point at things and ask them to touch them. The rationale is the fear of booby traps. In effect, it makes the search much easier, and it doesn't end up with everything turned upside down in the house."

Another officer told B'Tselem that "before the search we go to a neighbor, take him out of his house and tell him to call the people we want out of the next door house. If it works, it works, and if not we blow up the door or knock it down with a hammer. The neighbor goes in first. If they're planning something, he gets it. The orders say to send him upstairs first, and to take everyone out ... we take their ID cards, and then make the neighbor go through the house. We find who we were looking for and arrest them ... The neighbor does not have the option to refuse to do it. He shouts, knocks on the door and says the army's here. If nobody answers, he comes back and we go to work."

Senior officers, defending the practice yesterday - though admitting it is controversial inside the army - said that Fatah leader Marwan Barghouti was arrested using the method. "We sent one of his neighbors to knock on the door and tell him that the army was waiting outside," said a senior officer.

"Because of the neighbor, Barghouti and his men didn't open fire at the neighbor and the soldiers, and his arrest was made without any resistance."

As for the orders issued by the army in May in the wake of the court hearing, a senior officer said that the IDF interpreted the orders to mean that the practice is forbidden "if the neighbor is put at risk." Another officer said that "this is a military method, an efficient and effective method, it's used by the police and by the army."

Last night, former justice minister Yossi Beilin called the practice "immoral and un-Jewish." He charged that Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Defense Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer "are responsible for the worst moral deterioration in the history of Israel. Not only is this practice illegal, not Jewish, and immoral, Israel is paying an enormous price for it. This government is teaching the army the worst practices, and is turning the concept of 'purity of arms' into slander." ■

TULKAREM: A WEEK OF EXTREME VIOLENCE

By Rebecca Murray, August 14, 2002

I have just spent the past week in Tulkarem.

Tulkarem straddles the line of the West Bank and Israel, where you can see the lights of Netanya and the sea in the distance. But the city is completely isolated, and this imprisonment heavily enforced by the surrounding Israeli military.

This is a city where extreme violence carried out by the Israeli military on all Palestinian citizens is hushed up. Journalists are strictly forbidden from this 'military zone'. Apaches this past week have been flying low over the city day and night, firing into Tulkarem camp and city with routine frequency. Tanks have occupied the center and outskirts of the city, also firing often. And the soldiers in jeeps, many of them Druze, drive around constantly, shouting that if they see anyone on the street they will shoot.

The military is very busy arresting and shooting at civilians, on many occasions children as young as seven years old. Journalists have been threatened with arrest unless they get out of town immediately, their film confiscated on site. This week Ha'aretz reporter Gideon Levy's car was fired upon with no provocation (a bullet straight in the center of the windshield), the only thing saving his life being the bullet proof glass.

COLD BLOODED EXECUTIONS

On Tuesday, August 7th, the military executed one of the men on their "wanted list", Ziad D'ayas, 28 years old, in cold blood. They also murdered two Palestinian civilians in the vicinity, afterwards claiming they too were "wanted". This official military statement is an absolute untruth.

One, Mahair Jesmawi, 17 years old, was a student who had just learnt moments before he had just passed his end of the year school examinations. Elated, he stepped out briefly onto the street and was killed. The other was Mohammed Saidz, 24 years old, a mechanic working in his shop who had the bad luck to be happened upon by soldiers going after Ziad. He was shot and died a slow death after ambulances were prevented from retrieving him.

This military action was conducted in a particularly gruesome way. According to eyewitnesses in neighbouring buildings, it started around 9 am that morning. Snipers, and soldiers, many in plain clothers surrounded the area of the mechanic's roof where Ziad was sleeping. They proceeded to aim and shoot, hitting Ziad in his leg and

neck. Ziad fell off the roof into the shop, breaking his limbs but still alive. They then proceeded to bash him all over his body with their guns, before firing 9 dum dum bullets directly into his head, killing him instantly. Their dogs were set on the body, and acid was poured on his arms, legs, and stomach. Ambulances were prevented from moving for five hours that morning. One tried to retrieve the three bodies that the military held in a small field outside the mechanic's house, but the ambulance was fired upon and had to turn back. Finally, a civilian car rushed the bodies to the government hospital as soon as the soldiers left the the vicinity.

I viewed the bodies as they came in. Ziad's body was grotesquely tortured, limbs broken, and his skin peeled off in huge sections from the acid. His head was half blown off. Mahair, the 17 year old student, was shot in the head. And Mohammed, the mechanic, had a bullet in his torso.

Meanwhile, the houses in the area of the murders were emptied of families, as the soldiers went through each one, damaging furniture, stealing money on two occasions. A group of roughly thirty men were arrested and taken to Israel, including two wounded by live ammunition.

THE HOSPITAL AND AMBULANCES UNDER SIEGE

The ambulance dispatch center is next to Tulkarem's government hospital. On three occasions this past week both the hospital and ambulance entrance have been blocked by tanks and jeeps. Apparently this is quite normal.

On these occasions, soldiers scream at the hospital gate keepers to close the gates. Once, to punctuate their point, the soldiers fired live ammunition through the gaps in the gate, towards the emergency room entrance, hitting a car in the process. Thankfully, the car had no occupants at the time.

On these three occasions the Red Cross has been informed by the military that the ambulances cannot move AT ALL. Shooting at moving ambulances is unfortunately not uncommon in Tulkarem.

A DECIMATED AMBULANCE

Three days ago, the ambulance center wanted to deliver an ambulance that had been decimated by tank fire on March 7th, to the main ambulance center in Ramallah. The attack on this particular ambulance resulted in the

death of the driver, Ibrahim. The vehicle was shot upon without warning by a tank as Ibrahim was heading back to the hospital after delivering a patient. He was killed by numerous bullets to the head. His passenger, a medic called Sophia, was pushed down onto the floor of the ambulance by Ibrahim moments before he was killed, so luckily escaped with only shrapnel all over her body.

The ambulance center had to negotiate with the soldiers at Tulkerem's checkpoint to transport this badly damaged ambulance through. When a soldier saw the 30 odd bullet holes in the windshield and body of the vehicle, as well as Ibrahim's blood and hair smeared on the inside of the driver's door, he asked me what happened. When the story was told, the soldier's response was, "they must have been fired upon by their own people". "No, it was definitely an Israeli tank," I said. [caught on film, eyewitness accounts, as well as the medic's account] "Well... then they must have been terrorists," the soldier adamantly replied.

SUMMER CAMP FOR KIDS CONTINUES UNDER FIRE

The summer camp for children is popular, but often caught up in the violence. The kids have been in the downtown camp on numerous occasions when the tanks come in to the downtown area and start firing.

The kids who attend (roughly 7 - 10 years old) are from both the city and the camp. Every morning the kids, escorted by the teachers run single file along the sides of buildings to reach the summer camp. The same routine happens upon their return home.

Running to the homes of the kids one afternoon we came across a tank and had to duck into a nearby house. The kids were terrified, one 8 year old girl sobbing with fear uncontrollably. The tank opened fire outside the house as we cowered on the floor.

Thankfully, there was a small kitten lounging on the floor. We used it to divert the kids' attention from the blasts outside, playfully pulling the kitten's tail and saying "look,look." They focused on the kitten and the small girl stopped crying. We left when when the street fell silent again, and ran to their houses.

TO SUM UP It is hard to conclude this essay of what was witnessed this bloody week in Tulkarem. The violence was so strong, and details brutal.

For more information please call:

Rebecca @ +972-55-558-954

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY MOVEMENT -
www.palsolidarity.org ■

A Phone Call from Hell

Uri Avnery 10.8.02

There is a direct telephone connection between heaven and hell. I can prove it.

The idea crossed my mind last Sunday, when I was climbing to a snow-covered peak in the alpine region of Italy, where I was the guest at a political conference. The sun was shining, the temperature hovered around zero centigrade, around me was a breathtaking landscape of white peaks. Far away below, calm cowherds led their animals to their green pasture. Heaven on earth.

And then the cellular phone rang. The call came from Tel-Aviv, where the barometer was climbing to 32 degrees and above. The radio news from Israel, which I managed to receive from time to time, told of people killed and wounded, attacks and retaliation, bombs and bombardments, demolition of homes and deportations, and, on top of that, factory closures, mass dismissals, economic disaster. A real hell.

My colleagues at home called to tell me about an exciting development: that morning, "Haaretz" had published on its front-page a hair-raising sensation: "Gush Shalom has threatened officers: We collect material

against you for The Hague". (This is the original headline in Hebrew. In the English edition of Haaretz, it was slightly toned down.)

Following the news item, I was told, the Prime Minister has ordered his obedient servant, the Attorney General, to start criminal proceedings against us. The Minister of Justice, Me'ir Shitreet, a third-rate politician, declared that we were a "fifth column". The Minister for Communication, Rubi Rivlin, considered by many to be a clown, solemnly asserted that "This is Treason!"

Any number of politicians and commentators started a lynch campaign. Expressions like "traitors", "informers", "Capo" (the Jewish "camp police", which served the Nazis in the concentration camps), "Judenrat" (the Jewish committees appointed by the Nazis in the ghettos) were freely bandied about.

There was, indeed, good reason for all this commotion. At the beginning of the year, the Gush Shalom peace movement, like many people in Israel and abroad, decided that it could no longer ignore the fact that in the course of the IDF operations in the occupied territories terrible acts, violating both Israeli and international law, were being committed. Some of these appeared to be war crimes. We in the Gush decided that it was our duty, as Israeli citizens who bear responsibility for the acts of

our government and our army, to raise our voice and deliver a stringent warning.

On January 9 we convened a conference on war crimes in a big hall in Tel-Aviv. Several professors of international law and two senior (retired) army officers were on the panel. One of the speakers was a war hero, air force Colonel Yig'al Shohat, who had been shot down over Egypt and lost a leg. In a voice trembling with emotion, he called upon his comrades, the combat pilots, to refuse to obey illegal orders, such as bombarding civilian neighborhoods.

All the TV and radio stations and the two major newspapers ignored the conference, to which they were invited. It was clear that all of the enlisted media had decided to suppress the issue of war crimes.

That became quite clear when we submitted to Kol Israel, the state-run radio network, a paid ad, informing soldiers about their duty to refuse "manifestly illegal orders" - literally repeating the wording of the judgment of the military court following the Kafr Kassem massacre of 1956. Kol Israel refused to broadcast it. We asked the Supreme Court to order the Broadcasting Authority to air the ad, but the court decided that it was unable to do so.

So we decided to take direct action. We distributed among the soldiers a pocket manual, setting out the prohibitions of the Geneva Convention, which was signed by Israel. Among them: Executions without trial (called "liquidations"), shooting of unarmed civilians, torture, prevention of medical treatment, killing the wounded (called "verification of death"), starvation, deportation.

"Protect yourself against indictment abroad!" the manual said, "As a soldier in an occupation army, you are particularly exposed to indictment for war crimes. Strict adherence to this manual will protect you from arrest and indictment abroad!"

The manual concluded: "Soldier, remember! During your military service, whether on regular or reserve duty, you must refuse manifestly illegal orders. If you have witnessed a war crime, you are duty-bound to report it!"

At the same time we sent individual letters to certain commanders and warned them that their actions might lead in future to their indictment in an Israeli or international court. (There is no statute of limitation on war crimes.) In the letters, we relied solely on material published in the media, especially on boasts made by the officers themselves, who practically incriminated themselves.

Copies were sent to the media, all of whom suppressed the information, as well as to the chief legal officer of the army, who did not take any action.

We warned these senior officers that the material collected by us would be put at the disposal of an Israeli court, if, at any time in the future, the courts start to fulfill their duty, or - as a last resort - to the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

One may assume that it was one of these officers who gave the sensational news to the military correspondent of Haaretz. The liberal newspaper, which, until that day, had ignored all the information about our action (as, indeed, about almost all the activities of the peace movements) did publish this story as the main sensation on its front page.

The result was a deluge of defamation. The telephone lines of Gush Shalom activists were inundated with curses and death threats. The radio talk shows competed with each other over who would bring the most fanatical extremists to the microphone, with the hosts egging them on and openly supporting them. Gush activists were suddenly invited to TV and radio interviews, where they were faced with interviewers who behaved like interrogators of prisoners in some Shin-Beth cellar.

Of all the curses thrown at us, the most instructive was "informers". It belongs to the ghetto vocabulary. When Jews were a defenseless community, helplessly exposed to the cruelty of Gentile authorities, a Jew who denounced another Jew to the Goyim was considered the vilest of the vile. The fact that this word is used today, after 54 years of having our state, when we have one of the most powerful armies in the world, shows that many in our country still live in the world of the ghetto. Verily, it seems that it is easier to get the Jews out of the ghetto than to get the ghetto out of some Jews. The judges of the International Criminal Court look to them like a mob of drunken Cossacks intent on carrying out a pogrom.

Our aim is, of course, prevention. We wanted to raise awareness of this subject among the officers and soldiers. We hoped they and their colleagues would take the war crimes issue into consideration while making their plans, supplying perhaps the feather that would turn the scales at the moment of decision. We were resolved to turn this subject into a public issue, so as to put pressure on the political and military leadership.

Actually, the campaign of incitement unleashed against us did serve this very purpose. For a week now, war crimes have become a central subject of the public discourse in Israel. No officer or soldier could avoid giving serious consideration to his deeds or defaults in the occupied territories. Many of them for the first time became aware of what war crimes are and how they might affect their own lives.

From now on, this subject will not disappear from the agenda. ■