



Dome of the Rock

Al Aqsa

Quarterly – Newsletter 14 – November 2002



Al-Aqsa Mosque

Bush - from regime to Capital city change

On September 30, US President George Bush signed the State Department Authorization Act (H.R.1646), which recognizes Jerusalem as Israel's capital. The bill (H.R. 1646) goes further than all previous Congress bills on Jerusalem. In 1995, US Congress passed the Jerusalem Embassy Act, requiring the US Embassy move to Jerusalem by 31 May 1999. However, the bill included a national security waiver, and all former US presidents have postponed the move every six months since the law was enacted. This bill changes the status of Jerusalem by a series of provisions: 1) Funds authorized may not be expended for the operation of a US consulate in Jerusalem unless it is under the supervision of the US Ambassador to Israel. 2) Funds may not be available for the publication of any official government document which lists countries and their capital cities unless the publication identifies Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. 3) For purposes of the registration of birth, certification of nationality, or issuance of a passport of a United States citizen born in the city of Jerusalem, the Secretary shall, upon the request of the citizen or the citizen's legal guardian, record the place of birth as Israel.

"U.S. policy regarding Jerusalem has not changed," President Bush said in a statement after signing the Act. The President made clear that his administration would not follow the Jerusalem provisions of the legislation, known as "Section 214," because it views them as advisory and not mandatory.

The seriousness of this bill cannot be underestimated as it is a back door route for the Israelis to stamp their claim of authority on the whole of Jerusalem. As PA official Sa'eb Ureikat described the American move as "very dangerous." Ureikat called the decision, as a flagrant violation of agreements signed by the United States. He added that "this is the first time in history the parliament of one country determines the capital of another."

Mofaz escapes UK fearing arrest

The Ex-Chief Commander of the Israeli Army, Shaul Mofaz was forced to run from the UK and return to Israel, following the filing of a case accusing him of committing war crimes.

The case was brought on behalf of Palestinians and the lawyer Imran Khan submitted a file to the Department of Public Prosecutors against Mofaz, outlining three charges: Assassinations of Palestinians, demolishing of homes and massacre of children.

The Israeli Embassy in London was quick to advise Mofaz to quickly leave Britain, in case a warrant for his arrest was issued.

The case was lodged on behalf of Palestinians with Friends of Al Aqsa, Muslim Association of Britain and PSC assisting in co-ordinating the work.

Since Britain has adopted the principles of the International Court of Justice, dealing with War Crime cases it is possible to seek a writ against any individual who is accused of committing war crimes.

Since the return of Mofaz to Israel he has accepted the post of Minister of Defence and this may give him temporary diplomatic immunity, but the case will be pursued until all legal avenues are exhausted.

Oxfam- do they need your support?

It is amazing but Oxfam a reputable charity organization that has enjoyed good reputation and support from throughout the communities has decided to politically align itself with Israel.

Oxfam recently refused a donation of £5,000 from Ted Honderich, a Canadian academic because he wrote a book in support of the Palestinians.

Therefore, all those who wish to see peace and justice in Palestine can assume Oxfam does not need their support.

Many have commented that next time an envelope from Oxfam arrives they will simply place a note stating, 'we support the end of occupation in Palestine - Thank you.'

It is extremely sad that a major charity like Oxfam is being manipulated by 'external forces' and becoming politically aligned.

Zionist regime says high-ranking officer spied for Hizbullah

The Zionist regime revealed on Tuesday 22 October that a high-ranking officer in the Israeli army was recently arrested on suspicion of spying for the Lebanese Islamic resistance movement, Hizbullah. The Israeli-state radio said the man, a lieutenant-Colonel in the Israeli army had been spying for Hizbullah for some time.

It has emerged the Lieutenant-Colonel was not alone but there at least 10 other Israeli Officers. The radio didn't give the name of the officer in question. The officer allegedly passed on to the Lebanese organization information concerning the deployment of Israeli forces in northern Palestine along the Lebanese borders for drugs. Ten other suspects were reportedly arrested in connection with the case, including several Israeli army officials. The case has been described as one of the worst spying cases in the Zionist regime's history.

Boycott working

KFC, McDonalds and Burger King in Saudi Arabia report a 50 per cent drop in business since Sept 2000. Morocco estimates Pepsi and Coca-Cola sales will drop by 50 per cent. Overall trade between the US and Arab countries is said to be down by at least 25 per cent. However, Saudi Arabia is cutting the price of US imports by half. Department stores in Egypt have stopped buying US branded cloths and footwear.

Americans feel pinch as Arab boycott starts to bite

WHEN school's over, Najeeb Atallah, 10, and a couple of friends head for the local McDonald's in Amman to picket their classmates.

Two branches of the chain have closed in the region and some staff have left their jobs, fearful of local reprisals. What began two years ago as a low-key protest against US support for Israel has developed into a sustained campaign against America's best known brands. Threats of a conflict in Iraq have given further impetus to the economic boycott. Fast food outlets, toy makers, drink and cosmetics companies, and even Disneyland, are feeling the squeeze.

Trade between the US and Arab countries is said to be down by at least 25 per cent since last year. Some economists argue that this is mainly due to the price of oil and exchange rates, but the boycott is taking its toll. Leading soft drinks companies and fast food chains have reported a drop in business of 25 to 40 per cent in the Arab world.

In Saudi Arabia, prices of US imports have been cut by half to tempt local people. There have been sit-in protests at branches of Burger King and McDonald's in Beirut, while outlets have been vandalised in Bahrain and Oman. Coca-Cola's plant in south India has been bombed and so has a branch of KFC in Tripoli.

On the streets of Cairo there are leaflets circulating urging a boycott of McDonald's and Burger King, Tide and Ariel detergents, Pampers nappies, Coca-Cola and Pepsi, Marlboro cigarettes and Heinz ketchup.

Protest organisers in Lebanon have targeted multinationals such as Johnson & Johnson, Philip Morris (cigarettes and food products), L'Oréal (cosmetics), Nestlé, Timberland, Estée Lauder (cosmetics), Hasbro (toys) and Sara Lee.

Supermarkets serving the 250 million-strong Arab consumer market say everything from breakfast cereals to American cigarettes is being left on the shelf.

Michael Theodoulou and Daniel McGrory, Times UK - Oct 11, 2002

British ambassador tells Israel "you converted Palestinian towns to concentration camps"

The British Ambassador to Israel has accused Israel of reducing the occupied territories of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to "two vast concentration camps."

The Israeli paper, Yediot Ahranot, on Monday 21 October, quoted the Ambassador as telling Israeli officials that Israeli treatment of ordinary Palestinians was "absolutely unacceptable."

"You have reduced the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to two vast concentration camps, you are imposing collective house arrest on hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians and you are hunting down innocent people in the streets."

On Sunday, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres admitted that TV images of Israel's wanton rampage against Palestinian civilians were creating a lot of hatred for Israel in Europe.

Peres reportedly asked "why can't we destroy all these homes in one operation?"

Two other Israeli officials made similar remarks highlighting anti-Israeli feelings in Europe.

The Peace offer to Palestinians

UN in 1947

You can have 47% of the 100% of your land.

Oslo Agreement

You are going to have 22% of the 100% of the land.

Barak's Generous Offer.

We are going to give you 80% of the 22% of 100% of the land.

Sharon's Peace Plan

We are going to give you 42% of the 80% of the 22% of the 100% of the land, which was originally yours, and this must remain under continuous curfew.

American Zionists offer

We asked Sharon to give you 0% of the 42% of 80% of 22% of 100% of the land which was originally yours.

Bush's Peace Plan

Sharon is a 'Man of Peace', I trust his judgment, but where the hell is Palestine?

Blair's Peace Plan

We want to create a viable Palestine State, but do not know where.

Children Crying in the Night

*This is the story that must be told
Of a Muslim baby, not very old
Lying in her crib on a star-lit night
How could she know of those planes in flight?*

*She lies there quietly touching her nose
Watching her mobile, wiggling her toes
Oohing and cooing, so sweetly is she
Talking to someone, who could it be?*

*An angel is standing with her in the room.
The baby is smiling, unaware of her doom.
The crib starts to shake and the mobile goes round
Then suddenly comes the most deafening sound*

*The ceiling drops in, in a second or two...
On her crib so she ceases to coo...
No one knows how long she lies there
Who thought about it? Doesn't anyone care?*

*Is she alive? Is she dead? Is she in pain?
Now that you mention it, who knows her name?
Her name is Amel, in English we say Hope*

Youth Exchange Programme Or Solidarity Visitors Programme

On the Youth Exchange Programme you will work and help students in publishing, education, pastoral or office related work at An Najah University in Nablus

As a Solidarity Visitor you will be required to support and help the Palestinian people in their daily routines. You may be required to advocate on their behalf

Qualifications

No formal qualifications are required but the following would be beneficial:

- .A good command of the English Language
- .Good communication skills and interpersonal skills
- .Ability to work with a team and to be self motivated

Work

Editing news and material in English language and assisting in publishing related work.
Assisting in education and related work
Establish communications for network building.
Establish contacts internationally with youth organizations.
Facilitate with workshop and office general practices.
Basic communication skills, including open discussions with student and staff.
Participation in general office tasks with staff and students.

Accommodation

For the Youth Exchange Programme University flats are available for free to Volunteers.
Solidarity Visitors can choose to live with a family or in a nearby Guest House at own cost.
Food and transport are not included.

Experience Gained

- .Benefit from helping and meeting the Palestinian people
- .Understand the plight of the Palestinian people
- .Appreciate and exchange cultural differences
- .Be part of a lifestyle under Israeli occupation

An experience of a life time!

For further details contact Sister Salma Ravat
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Crushed between the rubble, her tiny fingers start to grope!

*Where is my Mommy? I love her so dear.
Come get me Mommy! It's dark in here!
I'm scared and hungry and I can't see my feet,
There's blood in my mouth! Give me something to eat!*

*Where is Daddy? Where's my big brother?
It hurts when I breathe! Where is my mother?
How long have I been here? Is this just a dream?
I open my mouth, but I can't even scream!*

*They appear again by my side.
This time with a tear I plead...Why have I died?*

*Am I alone in my suffering? NO, there are many others.
In our grief and misery, we are all sisters and brothers.
Who are we, I ask you.. for what crime did we die?
They're throwing a party! Doesn't anyone cry?*

*Is it true? Am I nothing?! How could it be?
Don't they also have babies, just like me?
It is war they say, of which death is a part.
How blind they've become, how hardened of heart.*

*Did someone say hero? To whom they speak?
A VICTORY CLAIMED FOR KILLING THE WEAK?!
Why are they happy? Why are they proud?
Don't they know that I'm cold in my burial shroud?!*

*No war has been won; no ifs, buts or maybes,
They've only killed babies..*

Asma - Um Abdu

Israel top UK Customer

Trade between the UK and Israel has been encouraged by the Blair Government and the recent figures of around £2.4 billion makes Israel the top Middle East customer. Britain is hoping the figure will rise to around £3 billion in trade with Israel and all is being done to encourage this at a time when Israel is acting brutally against Palestinians and with total disregard to international norms and laws.

Over 400,000 in support of Palestine

We would like to thank everybody who made an effort to make the 28th September demonstration against bombing Iraq and an end to Israeli occupation a success. There has been a continued increase awareness and sympathy for the Palestinians. We need to now mobilise and increase our efforts towards ending Israeli Occupation of Masjidul Aqsa. After the event we received many e mails from al-Quds, thanking all those who had participated. This was no doubt a show of solidarity and a moral booster for the Palestinians.

Published by Friends of Al Aqsa.

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