



Dome of the Rock

# Al-Aqsa

[www.aqsa.org.uk](http://www.aqsa.org.uk)



Al-Aqsa Mosque

Quarterly

Newsletter 9

August 2001

## Palestinian solidarity demonstration

Friends of Al Aqsa, calls upon every individual to gather in London on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2001 in support of our brothers and sisters in Palestine and for the defence of Masjidul Al Aqsa Haram Sharif.

We call upon Islamic institutes and Masajids to arrange transportation for people in the local area and attend this peaceful demonstration to show respect to the over 600 martyred and over 25, 000 injured over the last year in the Al Aqsa Intifada.

The demonstration followed by speeches besides other things will send a signal of solidarity to the Palestinians who are under heavy Israeli physical and psychological attack to break their will and spirit. We want to inform the Palestinians that we in Britain have not forgotten them. Our united assembly will insh'Allah go towards morally strengthening them and at the same time show the united stand of the Ummah against those who are trying to cripple the Palestinians and usurp our holy Masjid Al Aqsa Haram Sharif.

Show your support for the Palestinians by attending the demonstration. [see back for details]

### Boycott Israel & its supporters

For too long western companies have been supporting apartheid Israel lubricate its economy in order to continue its deeds of oppression upon the Palestinians. The public has been inadvertently supporting these companies by patronizing them. In effect the money we spend in some of the outlets is directly being used to prop up the apartheid Israeli regime that is terrorizing the Palestinians, denying them human rights and contravening international law.

Between 29th of Sept 00 and 29th June 01, over 600 Palestinians have been martyred and more than 25,000 injured by the Israeli army and settlers. The Government of Israel has imposed collective punishment on the Palestinian civilian population, laying siege to their land, preventing free movement and devastating the Palestinian economy. "Normal" life is impossible as Palestinians are unable to work, to move around freely, to attend school, to get to hospitals, or to obtain water.

Friends of Al Aqsa call upon all just people of the world to boycott apartheid Israel and all its supporters.

A boycott at its simplest level could be a refusal to buy Israeli goods. We can endeavor not to buy everyday items such as food and clothing, which are marked made in Israel. Another level of boycott is identifying organizations and companies that export from Israel, trade with Israel, invest in Israel, or facilitate and encourage any of these things. The companies listed below fall in one of the above categories. We highly recommend besides stopping using these outlets you write to the Manager of the nearest outlet to you informing them of your actions and requesting they stop supporting apartheid Israel.

Most respectable Muslim scholars from throughout the world and human rights groups have supported the call for the boycott of companies that support apartheid Israel.

According to the Virtual Israel website on October 14, 1998, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu presented a select group of international business people with the highest tribute ever awarded by the "State of Israel". The Jubilee Award recognizes those individuals and organizations, which through their investments and trade relationships have done the most to strengthen the Israeli economy. Below is a list of some companies that assist Israeli economy:

Apax Partners & Co. Ltd - AT & T - British Gas - Burger King Cable and Wireless - Disney world Estee Lauder -Kimberly-Clark - Marks & Spencer - Motorola and General Motors affiliate, Delco - Sainsbury -Tesco -  
For further details visit our website [www.aqsa.org.uk](http://www.aqsa.org.uk)

### Blair welcomes butcher Sharon

Friends of Al Aqsa were deeply disquieted at Sharon being welcomed by Mr Blair. Having initially heard that Mr Blair's diary was full and unable to meet Sharon who was on a stopover to the USA. However, Mr Blair seemed to have a change of mind at the last minute and found time to welcome a war criminal. Despite being informed a few before Sharon's visit Friends of Al Aqsa with around 100 or so others managed to stage a demonstration outside 10 Downing Street and sent our signal of disgust to the butcher of Beirut. Sharon who is stained with the blood of Palestinians was also the subject of BBC Panorama programme, 'The Accused' in which it was argued that there is a case of war crimes and Human Right abuses to be answered by him. At present a test case has been submitted in the Belgium court to try Sharon for war crimes. Mr Blair's worm welcome of Sharon has made him the friendliest partner in Europe, even Bush of America who is considered very close came second, as Sharon was shown a cold shoulder in public by Bush.

## **Torture of Palestinian Children at the Gush Etzion Police Station**

B'Tselem published a report on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2001 exposing the torture and abuse of Palestinian minors detained at the Police station in Gush Etzion. The report contains testimonies of ten boys, aged fourteen to seventeen, who were arrested between October 2000 and January 2001 on suspicion of throwing stones. In most of the cases, the Police arrested them at their homes in the middle of the late night and took them to the Police station in Gush Etzion, where Police interrogators tortured them until morning. The Police objective was to obtain confessions and information about other minors. These are not isolated cases or uncommon conduct by certain police officers, and information received by B'Tselem raises the serious likelihood that torture during interrogations at the Gush Etzion Police station continues. The methods of torture described in the report include:

Forcing the minors to stand in painful positions for prolonged periods; Beating the minors severely for many hours, at times with the use of various objects; Splashing cold water on the detainees in the facility's courtyard in wintry conditions; Pushing the minor's head into the toilet bowl and flushing the toilet; Making death threats; Cursing and degrading the minors.

Ibrahim Za'ul, 16 years old states, 'they brought me to another room. Inside was an officer who identified himself as "Ayub." He said that he is a merciless person and is ready to kill me if I don't tell him the name of the youths who threw stones. Another guy opened the door and said in Arabic that Ahmad 'Aref Sabatin had died during interrogation. The officer turned to me and said, "What are we going to do with the body of Ahmad Sabatin, what do you say Ibrahim, what do you think? Do you want to change places with Ahmad? [...] I was blindfolded. The interrogator said that he was going to electrocute me and that I would die like Ahmad. I felt the sensation of two iron wires being stuck on me, but nothing happened. I was taken to the room where Ahmad Sabatin was. The interrogators began to beat him right in front of me. Ahmad began to cry and scream at the top of his voice. I asked them to stop because Ahmad did not throw stones, and I told them that I was ready to confess that I threw stones'. Another boy of 17, Isma'il Sabatin, reported, 'the interrogators ordered me to get into a position with my legs up and my head down while I was leaning on the wall. They left the room and ordered me to stay there until they returned. Later, they stood me on a chair and told me to grab a pipe that was fixed to the wall. They removed the chair from under me and left me hanging in the air, with my handcuffed hands holding onto the pipe and the weight of my body, hanging in the air, and drawing my hands downwards. They left the room'.

### **Study shows great psychosocial trauma of Israeli brutality**

A study by Gaza Community Mental Health Program shows significant increase in Mental Disorders and Symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) among Children and Women. The study conducted in the residents area close to Al-Tuffah point in Khan Younis and the Salah El-Din gate area in Rafah shows an increase in the rates of exposure to trauma: 99.2% of the group's homes were bombarded. 97.5% were exposed to tear gas. 2.5% suffered from burns. 1.7% were hit by rubber bullets. 2.5% were hit on the head and were rendered unconscious. 2.5% were prevented from reaching medical care. 96.6% of the children witnessed shootings. 51.7% saw injured or dead who were not relatives. 35.1% saw their neighbours injured or killed. 22.9% saw family members injured or killed. 95.8% witnessed bombardment and funerals. The increase in exposure to trauma led to an increase in the rate of PTSD symptoms: 54.6% of the children started to develop acute PTSD symptoms. 34.5% of the children started to develop medium PTSD symptoms. 9.2% of the children started to develop light PTSD symptoms.

In addition to the increase in PTSD symptoms, it was discovered that 13.3% of children are suffering from a sharp increase in mental and behavioural problems such as sleep disorders, hyperactivity, speech disorders, lack of concentration, and aggressive behaviour. There was an increase in psychological problems among mothers 19.7% were suffering from somatic symptoms. 24.6% were suffering from depression. 16.6% were suffering from anxiety. 11.8% were suffering from phobia. 11.2%. Were suffering from psychotic symptoms and psychosis.

*Dr Ahmad Youness*

### **Tel Aviv-Delhi \$2bn arms deal**

Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI) on Monday signed an estimated two billion dollar weapons contract with India's defence ministry. IAI, which works in cooperation with Israel's defence ministry, will deliver to India, aircraft, radar systems and surface-to-surface missiles, via India's largest defence contractor, Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL). Ha'aretz said. Three Phalcon early-warning aircraft, of the type, which Israel was prevented from supplying to China by strong US objections, will be among them. IAI will also deliver surface-to-surface naval Barak missiles, worth \$280 million, pilot-less planes valued at 300 million dollars, and Green Pine radar systems, estimated at 250 million dollars, Ha'aretz said. The radar is used in the Arrow anti-ballistic missile system deployed in Israel, after being developed in collaboration with the United States. In addition, IAI will develop a Super Barak missile for India, which will have twice the capability of the original Barak surface-to-surface missiles. The contract was signed at IAI headquarters in Lod, near Tel Aviv. *Ha'aretz 17 July 2001*

## One month of the Tenet cease-fire work plan

Despite Israel's agreement to the Tenet cease-fire work plan of 13<sup>th</sup> June, Israel refuses to implement what it has agreed upon. For the past month, Palestinian official sources have detected numerous violations of the Tenet Work plan ranging from killing innocent civilians including children to shelling residential homes. They have continued with their settlement expansion, confiscating lands and demolishing homes to reach this purpose regardless of any understandings or agreements the Israelis claim they are committed to. These violations have been committed, not only by the Israeli Occupation Forces, but also by settlers living in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The Israeli violations of the Tenet cease-fire work plan include:

1. The Israeli forces killed 33 Palestinians in one month. Seven of them were assassinated in different ways, either by shelling their cars, or by bombing a public telephone. The number of children killed reached 7.
2. 1073 Palestinians were injured, 342 of them are children, and 85 of the children are in serious condition.
3. 675 Palestinians were detained in Israeli prisons.
4. 29, 401 trees were destroyed by cutting or burning.
5. 12973 dunums of land were razed.
6. 473 houses, 377 cars and 194 workshops were destroyed.
7. 8 new settlements were built. 2714 residential units have been decided to be built in settlements. 2235 dunums of land is added to the settlements for their expansion. 8 new bypass roads. 38 new permanent military checkpoints were set up.
8. 78 times the Israeli occupation forces entered area "A". 92 times the Israeli forces shelled Palestinian areas. 329 times the Israeli Occupation army violated the cease-fire when they opened heavy machinegun fire. *Palestine Media Center*

To receive updates on Palestine

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Visit our website: [www.aqsa.org.uk](http://www.aqsa.org.uk)  
and 'submit' your details

## Israel Army updates plan to smash PA

Israeli generals have updated plans for an all-out assault to smash the Palestinian Authority, force out leader Yasser Arafat and kill or detain his army, according to a Foreign Report, published by the influential Jane's information group. It says, it has seen what it claims to be an executive summary of a proposal presented to the Israeli government on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2001.

The assault would be launched at the government's discretion after the next big suicide bomb attack in Israel that causes widespread deaths and injuries, citing the bloodshed as justification.

According to the Jane's information group report, the generals envisage a military operation of up to one month. Estimated Israeli casualties would be measured in the hundreds. Palestinian losses would be in there thousands.

By the end of the operation, the generals believe Arafat would either have left or been forced to leave the West Bank and Gaza Strip. His closest allies would be either dead or also out of the area. The Palestinian armed forces, estimated at some 40,000, would be disarmed, and either dead or held in detention camps.

The blueprint, with the title, "The destruction of the Palestinian Authority and disarmament of all armed forces," was presented by Israeli chief of staff Brig. Gen. Shaul Mofaz, Foreign Report said.

A suicide bomb attack would provide the necessary motive for Israeli troops as well as enabling Israeli ambassadors and other officials to tell concerned countries that military action was a justified response.

The journal's sources said the Israeli army's current high command, perhaps reflecting the views of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, wants the military to be given a more assertive role. The planned operation would certainly do that. *Nazir Majally, Arab News Staff*

## Supporters of Al Aqsa

We request assistance from everybody by attending this peaceful demonstration in London on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2001. We in particular urge you to:

1. Help us advertise the event in your area. Please get in touch with us for posters and leaflets.
2. Arrange transportation, mini-bus, coaches etc for the day and generally assist people on the day.
3. Increase awareness by arranging talks in your local Masajid or Institute.

**Muslims of Palestine and Masjidul Al Aqsa  
need your support!**

For further details do not hesitate to get in touch with us

# DEMONSTRATION

Since the Intifada started one year ago 600 Palestinians have been martyred and over 25, 000 injured, while the world keeps silent and watches from the sideline.

We call upon everyone to join us in the peaceful demonstration to show:

**Solidarity for Muslims in Palestine  
&  
Respect for the Martyrs**

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2001**

**Start: 12.00 mid-day, Hyde Park, London**  
[nearest Tube Station – Marble Arch]

**Finish: Trafalgar Square** [followed by speeches]

Organised by:  
Friends of Al Aqsa & Palestinian Return Centre

## Seminar on Palestine

An ideal opportunity to understanding the crisis in Palestine.  
Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2001  
Leicester University, Leicester.

Topics to include:

\*Palestine-Religious or Political crisis \* Western complicity and future scenarios \* Arab & Islamic Worlds involvement \* Images of the media \* Christian Zionism \* The Prize of Israel \*Al Aqsa Intifada

PLUS Workshops, Quiz and Much More

Lecturers to include:

Dr Azzam Tamimi, Dr Daud Abdullah, Dr Basheer Nafi, Dr Farid al Shaiyal, Dr Ghada Karmi, Ibrahim Hewitt, Rev Stephen Sizer, Rev Garth Hewitt, Dr John Ross.

**Registration - Name & Add**

\_\_\_\_\_ Tel \_\_\_\_\_

**COST:**

1. Friday & Saturday Accommodation Plus Food:
  - £40
  - £20 Full Time Students
2. Day attendance:
  - £15 per day
  - £10 per day Full Time Students

Post to: Friends of Al Aqsa. P O Box 5127, Leicester, LE2 0WU.

## Sharon to speak at the same meeting as Blair

Sharon is rumoured to address the United Jewish Israel Appeal [UJIA] later this year. This is the same organisation Friends of Al Aqsa requested Mr Blair to re-consider attending in January of this year.

Tony Blair, as Sharon is expected, help raise fund for UJIA. The UJIA collects millions of pounds in the UK, which is partly used to support Jewish immigration to Israel. These Jewish immigrants carted from Russia, Ethiopia and other parts of the world once in "Israel" occupy Palestinian land. This according to international law, and UN resolutions is illegal.

Britain is being used to collect funds for Zionist implementation of apartheid regime in Israel and contravening international law.

We call on the Home Office to investigate the raising of funds by Zionist organisations in UK and further call upon our members and concerned individuals to lobby the Home Office on this.

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