

## **PLO NEGOTIATIONS AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT**

# **Peace Partner? Israeli Incitement, Violations and Provocative Actions During the Proximity Talks**

**JULY 2010**

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### **Israeli violations within the occupied Palestinian territory, May 13 – July 5**

During the last eight weeks the Palestinian negotiations team has been involved in Proximity Talks with US Special Envoy for Middle East Peace, Senator George Mitchell, and his team. While the Palestinian side remains fully committed to its Road Map obligations and the Terms of Reference of the Peace Process, Israel, the occupying power, continues to defy international consensus and the American efforts to resume peace negotiations by constantly violating international law and harming the Peace Process.

During the first eight weeks of Proximity Talks, May 13 – July 5, the PLO has consistently reported to the American Administration on the illegal Israeli actions. An extract of the report follows:

#### **1. PALESTINIANS KILLED**

- Six Palestinian civilians were killed by the Israeli Occupation Forces or Israeli settlers within the occupied Palestinian territory.
- The list of Palestinians killed include 16 year-old Aysar Az Ziben, killed by Israeli settlers in the main road between Ramallah and Nablus; 59 year-old Fatimah Sabarneh, killed after a settler ran his car over her and her husband, who was severely injured, at the entrance of the Palestinian town of Beit Ummar; Mazen al Jamal, who died of critical injuries after being run over by a jeep of the Israeli occupation forces at the southern entrance of Hebron city; and Ziad al Julani, killed after being shot several times by Israeli occupation forces at the Wadi' Joz neighborhood in occupied East Jerusalem.

#### **2. PALESTINIANS INJURED**

- 121 Palestinians were injured by Israeli occupation forces or settlers. Concurrently, at least 30 physical assaults from settlers and Israeli occupation forces have been reported against Palestinian civilians.
- During the last month, 119 events of settler violence against Palestinians were registered, including the stoning of Dheeb Aref Qadous, a 15 year-old Palestinian boy from the Palestinian village of Iraq Burin, fracturing his left hand and left leg. Additionally, an Israeli settler ran over Ahmad Sa'id (10 years old), leaving him with serious injuries.
- Israeli occupation forces continued to heavily repress Palestinian nonviolent demonstrations all over the occupied Palestinian territory, including occupied East Jerusalem. Among the victims of the repression was 85-year-old woman Fahina Abu Omar who suffered from tear gas inhalation after Israeli occupation forces violently dispersed a peaceful crew in the village of Iraq Burin.

### 3. ISRAELI INCURSIONS

- Israeli occupation forces have continued their incursions into several areas within the occupied Palestinian territory, mounting at least 902 incursions all over the occupied Palestinian territory, including Zababdeh, Kalkilia, Nablus, Huwwara, Tubas, Tulkarem, Ramallah, Beit Jala, Bethlehem, Beit Sahour and Hebron. All of these major cities are under the control of the Palestinian National Authority.
- In the besieged Gaza Strip, Israeli occupation forces raided the town of Abasan Al Kabira and opened intensive fire towards civilian homes and agricultural land while leveling an area of agricultural land in the Al Farahin Area and Abasan As-Saghira village. At the same time, several areas in the Rafah district and northern and central Gaza Strip came under Israeli fire and incursions.
- Aggressions from the Israeli occupation forces against Palestinians in occupied East Jerusalem continued, with raids in Silwan, Sheikh Jarrah, Beit Safafa, Ras Al Amoud, Isawiya and Abu Dis. Al Quds University was raided and the laboratories searched, during which a computer was confiscated and an employee arrested.

### 4. PALESTINIANS DETAINED AND ARRESTED BY ISRAELI AUTHORITIES

- During the period of this report, Israeli occupation Forces have arrested 378 Palestinians. At the same time, several hundred Palestinians have been detained by the IOF at checkpoints and Palestinian residential areas.
- Several minors were detained, including Jamal Zeid (16 years old), Mohammad Az Za'ariq (16 years old), and Mu'ayyad Bahr (15 years old).

### 5. SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY AND MOVEMENT RESTRICTIONS

During the Proximity Talks process, Israel has not stopped its illegal colonization process within the occupied Palestinian territory, including:

#### **Wall Construction:**

- Active construction of the Wall has continued in 19 places within the occupied West Bank, mainly in the Jerusalem district (Eizariya, Beit Hanina), Bethlehem (Beit Jala, Wallajah), Ramallah (Aboud, Bil'in), Kalkilia (Jayyous), and Hebron (Tarqumiya).

#### **Settlement construction:**

- Active settlement construction continued all over the occupied Palestinian territory. Several examples of settlement expansion include Har Gilo (Wallajah / Beit Jala), Ma'ale David/Zetim (Ras al Amoud neighborhood, occupied East Jerusalem), City of David (Silwan neighborhood, occupied East Jerusalem), Gilo (Beit Jala), Har Homa (Beit Sahour), Giv'at Hamatos (Beit Safafa), Giv'at Zeev (Betunia) and Betar Illit (Wadi' Fukin).
- Construction for a road expansion in between the settlement of Ma'ale Adumin and occupied East Jerusalem has been started.
- An Israeli contractor began settlement construction on the premises of the Shepherd Hotel in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood of occupied East Jerusalem<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ynetnews.com/articles.0,7340,L-3911541m99.html>

### Settlement approval:

- The Israeli Jerusalem Municipality approved a plan to build 1,000 hotel rooms on 70 dunums of land on the Western side of the United Nations headquarters (Jabal Muqaber, occupied East Jerusalem).
- The Israeli District Planning and Building Committee ratified the plan to build 1,600 housing units in the settlement of Ramat Shlomo (occupied East Jerusalem).
- The Jerusalem District Planning and Building Committee announced the publication in the coming weeks of a new blueprint program for construction in Jerusalem, including the expansion of Israeli settlements in occupied East Jerusalem. Most of the land earmarked for this expansion is privately owned by Palestinians.<sup>2</sup>
- According to a report published in *Ha'aretz* newspaper, the Israeli Regional Councils in the occupied West Bank are preparing to build at least 2,700 housing units as soon as the current partial settlement freeze reaches its scheduled end this September.

### Movement Restrictions:

- During the last eight weeks Israeli occupation forces have intensified the restriction of movement at 11 permanent checkpoints within the occupied West Bank, including Qalandiya (Ramallah / occupied East Jerusalem), Shu'fat (Shu'fat Refugee Camp / occupied East Jerusalem), Tayasir (Eastern Tubas / Jordan Valley), Einav (Tulkarem / Nablus) and At Tur (Jabal At Tur / Nablus).
- During the same period of time, at least 800 flying checkpoints were imposed by the Israeli occupation forces within the occupied Palestinian territory.
- Restrictions during the period of this report included limited crossing hours and special restrictions during Jewish holidays.

## 6. HOME DEMOLITIONS AND EVICTIONS:

- Israeli occupation forces demolished the home of Mr. Anton Khader Hani in the Wadi Ahmad area of Beit Jala (Bethlehem district).
- Israeli occupation forces distributed tens of notices for demolition orders in the villages of Al Hadidiya, Humsa and Kafr ad Dik, Wadi Ar-Rasha, Al Burj, Al Jalazun Refugee Camp, and An Niwe'ima, where the structure to be demolished is the school.
- In the Jordan Valley and Jericho district, Israeli occupation forces served eviction orders to Palestinian farmers mainly from the villages of Al Jaflek, Fasayel area, Khelat Al Foula and Kherbat A'llan.<sup>3</sup>
- The Israeli occupation forces demolished agricultural infrastructure in several areas including Jordan Valley and Al Isawiya.
- The Israeli Jerusalem Municipality approved the demolition of 22 Palestinian homes located in the Al Bustan neighborhood of Silwan, occupied East Jerusalem. The plan is to build a park, restaurants, and hotels to further consolidate control south of the Old City of Jerusalem.<sup>4</sup>
- The Israeli Jerusalem Municipality is making preparations for the demolition of up to 100 housing units (in 30 – 40 buildings) in the Issawiya neighborhood, occupied East Jerusalem. Demolitions of some or all of these buildings are scheduled to begin in August 2010. Demolitions of this scale in a single neighborhood are virtually unprecedented in East Jerusalem and certainly have not been seen since the demolition of the Moroccan Quarter of the Old City by Israeli occupation forces in 1967.

## 7. RESIDENCY RIGHTS IN JERUSALEM

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.haaretz.com/print-edition/news/planning-committee-to-release-blueprint-outlining-takeover-of-east-jerusalem-1.298472>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.maannews.net/eng/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=234294>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.maannews.net/eng/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=293646>

- The State of Israel has continued its policy of stripping the residency rights of Palestinian Jerusalemites.
- Under the excuse of security, Israel ordered four elected members of the Palestinian Legislative Council from Jerusalem (Mohammad Abu Tir, Mohammad Totah, Khaled Abu Arafa and Ahmed Atoun) to leave the city. They were all stripped of their residency rights.
- Four members of a Palestinian family were stripped of their residency rights in occupied East Jerusalem after obtaining American Green Cards.<sup>5</sup>
- 1,800 residents of Sheikh Sa'ad village (all holding Israeli Identity Cards) have been denied access to the rest of occupied East Jerusalem.<sup>6</sup>

## 8. GAZA SIEGE

- Israel continued its brutal medieval sieve over the Gaza Strip with devastating effects on the civilian population.<sup>7</sup>
- Gaza receives an average of 2,500 tons of cooking gas per month when the demand is 6,000 tons per month.
- Unemployment stands at 33.9% in the first quarter of 2010.
- Actual participation in the workforce is 36.3% (304,900 people).
- 65% of the population lives below the poverty line.
- 80% of the population relies on international aid organization's support.

## 9. INCITEMENT

During the period of Proximity Talks, Israeli officials, ministries and political parties have continued incitement against the Peace Process and the rights of the Palestinian people.

- The Israeli Ministry of Tourism continues to publish maps that depict the occupied Palestinian territory as an integral part of Israel.<sup>8</sup>
- The Israeli Ministry of Tourism continues to promote archeological and religious sites located within the occupied Palestinian territory as being integral parts of Israel. Among the sites are:
  - The "Gush Etzion Historical Museum"<sup>9</sup>
  - The "Good Samaritan Museum"<sup>10</sup>
  - The Church of the Holy Sepulcher and Damascus Gate among other Jerusalem Old City archeological, religious and touristic attractions<sup>11</sup>
- Renowned settler and Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman continues to incite against Palestinians and the Peace Process claiming in an op-ed published in the *Jerusalem Post* on June 27 that the only solution that can ensure long-term regional stability requires an exchange of populated territory and for the right of return to be negated.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Inter Church Center newsletter, Jerusalem. June 10, 2010.

<sup>6</sup><http://www.haaretz.com/blogs/mess-report/mess-report-why-is-israel-torturing-the-palestinian-residents-of-sheikh-saad-1.292136>

<sup>7</sup> Gisha Report found on: [http://english.pnn.ps/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=8308&Itemid=56](http://english.pnn.ps/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8308&Itemid=56)

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.goisrael.com/NR/rdonlyres/1EB6BDEA-AEB9-428D-AE39-2561A8D7FFA2/8631/MapOfIsrael.pdf>.

<sup>9</sup> [http://www.goisrael.com/Tourism\\_Eng/Items/ItemDetails.htm?type=25&id=6646](http://www.goisrael.com/Tourism_Eng/Items/ItemDetails.htm?type=25&id=6646)

<sup>10</sup> ([http://www.goisrael.com/Tourism\\_Eng/Items/ItemDetails.htm?type=25&id=55848](http://www.goisrael.com/Tourism_Eng/Items/ItemDetails.htm?type=25&id=55848))

<sup>11</sup>

[http://www.goisrael.com/Ness.Tourism.CMS/Templates\\_I/USA/Content/MapaSearch.aspx?NRMODE=Published&NRORIGINALURL=%2fTourism\\_Eng%2fItems%2fAttractions%2ehtm&NRNODEGUID=%7b0ABE7366-CEF7-4145-AE7C-C51D076BD907%7d&NRCACHEHINT=NoModifyGuest](http://www.goisrael.com/Ness.Tourism.CMS/Templates_I/USA/Content/MapaSearch.aspx?NRMODE=Published&NRORIGINALURL=%2fTourism_Eng%2fItems%2fAttractions%2ehtm&NRNODEGUID=%7b0ABE7366-CEF7-4145-AE7C-C51D076BD907%7d&NRCACHEHINT=NoModifyGuest)

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.jpost.com/Opinion/Op-EdContributors/Article.aspx?id=179333>

- Israeli occupation authorities sent a letter to the Palestinian District Coordination Office in Ramallah threatening that it will cut off transmission of the unified calls to prayer in Ramallah mosques. Israel claims that the transmission disrupts the Israeli occupation forces wireless telecommunications devices.<sup>13</sup>
- Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Moshe Ya'lon met with a group of Israeli settlers and stated that: “we will not evacuate settlements. We will not move Jews. We will not sacrifice Jews from any place in Israel (...) the settlements have never been a stumbling block to peace.”<sup>14</sup>
- The ruling Israeli Likud Party held its Convention in occupied East Jerusalem at the Israeli French Hill settlement. During the convention, Israeli Minister without portfolio Beni Begin stated “we will practice our right and build in Judea and Samaria and continue to operate the succeeding and blooming Zionist enterprise in Jerusalem.”<sup>15</sup>
- Some of the decisions taken by the Likud Convention were to: annex the occupied West Bank (“Judea and Samaria”) to Israel; immediately terminate all discussions regarding the establishment of a Palestinian State; continue to support the efforts of the Israeli Jerusalem Municipality for the colonization of occupied East Jerusalem; encourage Jews to obtain land in the occupied West Bank; encourage the building of new settlements within the occupied Palestinian territory; decline to negotiate on the issue of Jerusalem; and encourage Jews to settle in Jerusalem to assure a “Jewish majority” in the city.<sup>16</sup>
- Leading officials in the current Israeli coalition declared that the temporary construction freeze in the occupied West Bank settlements (excluding occupied East Jerusalem, which has never been a part of the “freeze”) must not be renewed once it expires in September, stating as follows: “We, the coalition chairmen of Likud, Yisrael Beiteinu, Shas, United Torah Judaism and the National Union, and members of the Land of Israel lobby, firmly oppose extending the freeze after September 26. Ending the freeze on the date that has been set is the minimum that can be demanded for the preservation of Israel as an autonomous state and according to our crucial interests.”<sup>17</sup>

## 10. PALESTINIAN HERITAGE

- Israeli authorities continue to harm Palestinian heritage in West Jerusalem, including the excavations at the Islamic Cemetery of Mamillah<sup>18</sup>. The Israeli plans are designed to change the landscape of the area without taking into consideration either the religious significance or the fact that part of the land is refugee property.

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<sup>13</sup> Palestine Monitoring Group May 19<sup>th</sup> report.

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.jpost.com/Israel/Article.aspx?id=176030>

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.inn.co.il/News/News.aspx/205560> and <http://news.walla.co.il/?w=/22/1686189> (June 14, 2010)

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.haaretz.com/news/diplomacy-defense/coalition-whips-to-netanyahu-don-t-renew-settlement-freeze-1.300207>

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.haaretz.com/print-edition/opinion/what-to-do-with-the-graves-1.291145>