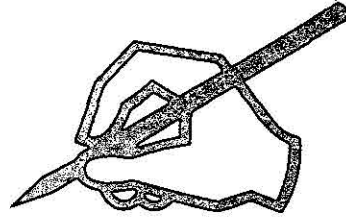


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*NEWS FROM*



*PALESTINE*



A Bi-Weekly Report

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Directorate of External Relations and Media

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## Manipulating Jerusalem's History

Immediately after Israeli soldiers occupied Arab East Jerusalem back in 1967, the Hebrew University, the Israeli Ministry of Religious Affairs, and the Department of Antiquities collectively and individually began a massive excavation campaign in Arab East Jerusalem in a bid to find and locate traces of Jewish existence from the so called 'Temple Mount Era.'

The fact of the matter is that almost **thirty years of excavations did not reveal anything Jewish, no tangible evidence of theirs was unearthed.** Much to their chagrin, what surfaced from their underground excavations turned out to be more Muslim palaces, courts and mosques. Other excavations revealed archeological ruins belonging to the Romans, Greeks and Canaanites.

Faced with these facts, successive Israeli governments decided to use the current balance of power in the city, being at the moment in their favor, to distort what they can in terms of historical facts and to present the world with falsified accounts of history orchestrated in a way the world would accept as a fait accompli.

Under the guise of developing archeological park as part of the 'city's Jewish trimillennial celebrations', the Israeli government and Olmert's municipality into dress up archeological sites in Arab East Jerusalem, which they describe as "rather ugly, boring sites" to have them depict other civilizations of their choice. (see the Jerusalem Post. Sept. 1, 1995)

They began international and local media campaigns aimed at convincing others and themselves of an authentic original historical existence in a kingdom which originated in Silwan 3000 years ago. It is interesting to note that Dame Kathleen Kenyon, a British archeologist, and her teams helped and supported by local Palestinians from Silwan, worked for almost a decade in the 1960's excavating sites in many chosen parts in the city, in search of this so called kingdom. The area they call Ophel located south east of Jerusalem's old city walls was excavated deep into the ground. Dame Kenyon's excavations did not produce anything of significance to support the Israeli claim.

Professor Mazar of the Hebrew University began his own excavations on what Jews thought was the extension of the wailing wall. To their shocking experience, a large Omayyad palace and other Muslim archeological remains

collapse. These diggings and excavations are taking place in many areas, the most dangerous of all are:-

- The excavations taking place alongside the Western Wall beginning at the most southwestern corner of the mosque reaching northwards to El Omariyeh School.
- The tunnel dug underneath the mosque starting at the wailing wall and ending immediately underneath the water well inside the grounds of the Aqsa Mosque.
- The tunnel leading from the Convent of the Sisters of Zion (better known as Ecce Homo Church) on the via Dolorosa leading south towards the mosque.
- The tunnel leading from the most southern part of Jerusalem wall to Suleiman's Stables underneath the Aqsa Mosque.

In addition, official Israeli policies conducted in Olmert's municipality desecrated the Islamic burial place in West Jerusalem 'Ma'man Allah' (God's place of safety) or colloquially called Mamilla. The area of this burial place was 250,000 sqm., and most of this land has been used as building plots. At the moment the Sheraton Plaza Hotel, Supersol supermarket, Beit Agron building and the adjacent car park are built on this Islamic Waqf owned land which was used by Muslims until 1948 as their burial place in Jerusalem. Even the dead are not safe here as scores of Muslim graves have been desecrated, moved, destroyed, and damaged, many have been plastered with concrete to obliterate their Arabic inscriptions. What remains of this cemetery is being used as an open park, very few Muslim graves can be seen around this cemetery-turned-park 'courtesy' of Olmert and Kollek.

Above ground, leading Israeli right-wing elements and Jewish groups encouraged and supported indirectly by Israeli official policy in Jerusalem are constantly trying to force their way into the grounds of the Aqsa Mosque to conduct Jewish group prayers there. On the evening of May 28 1995, more than 100 Jews lead by Yehud Etzion 'a conspirator to kill and maim Palestinian mayors in the 1980's, tried to force entry from the western entrance into the mosque. The Waqf guards, supported by those at prayer in the Al Aqsa Mosque confronted this group and foiled their attempt to enter, many more attempts by similar groups have taken place. The vigilant eyes of the guards

The simple answer to that is: Not one single Palestinian is scared of this warmongering, further more, many Palestinians are aware that this current Israeli leadership is foolish enough to take a decision to enter into area 'A' to reoccupy it, putting aside all other consequences, the Israeli army will be fought nail and teeth every inch of the way, adding to that, Palestinians were under occupation for the last 29 years, 98% of the Palestinian territories is still under occupation, the economy is besieged and no work is available, shortly we will have shortage of food and medicine, the Palestinians in the occupied territories will not accept hanger, another incentive will be added to the ammunition of their resistance.

On Friday afternoon and on CNN live, a caller from Europe asked about the difference between Netanyahu and Radovan Karadzic the mass murderer of Bosnia, both ordered their respective armies to kill civilians, it is perhaps necessary to suggest that Eric Sharon, Rafael Eitan are added to the list of Karaditzc. Netanyahu should pose for along time before he takes his next move.

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### **Egypt and Palestine have a unified Stance**

Egypt's president Husni Mubarek and his foreign minister Amr Mussa, were the first forerunners among Arab political leaders to sense the vicious dangers arising from Israel's intransigence, and warned against its destructive consequences on the Middle East peace process.

They've closely followed up the Palestinian popular outburst and the Israeli bloody reactions, and proposed several initiatives to defuse tension and contain the explosive situation before it goes far beyond control.

But the right-wing Netanyahu's government didn't respond to such initiatives, which came to reflect the Egyptian government's dedication to the peace agreements.

The Israeli government's rejection to Egypt's initiatives came as these initiatives were associated with the demand to eliminate the causes of tension, such as the opening of the tunnel. Israel's reluctance to outline a timetable for

Simultaneously, its absence came as a warning signal to the world of the anticipated devastating consequences arising from the rigid Israeli position which was not publicly condemned by Washington.

If the process of events continued like this, Palestine plunged into the siege of Israeli tanks and cannons, and which a stance conforming with that of Egypt, perceives that the Washington summit has lost a key partner in the area whose absence will ultimately bring about negative implications to the outcome of the summit.

### **The Opening of the Tunnel amidst Israeli building-up threats**

Day after day, the Netanyahu government continues its serious violation and infringement of the rights of the Palestinian people, the land, the property, and freedom.

The provocative Israeli violations are mainly focused on East Jerusalem as the Israeli government has opened last Tuesday a tunnel along the extension of the western wall of Al Aqsa Mosque after illegal excavations which have jolted the foundations of the historic Islamic buildings run by the Islamic Wakf, including the building of the Higher Islamic Council.

The outgoing labor government has frozen excavation works underneath the ground of the premises of the Aqsa mosque. But the new right-wing government, led by prime minister Binyamin Netanyahu, has insisted on opening the tunnel to further escalate tension in the city angering the Palestinian, Arab, and Muslim peoples.

The dangerous provocative step was part of a new chapter of violence advocated by Netanyahu to complement the Jewishization and Israelization of East Jerusalem against the will of its Palestinian inhabitants, who vehemently called for ending the Israeli occupation to their city.

Netanyahu has initiated his tenure in office by reviving the activities of the extremist settling groups like El Ad.

His government has implemented several house demolition's inside and outside the old city of Jerusalem, particularly the demolition of Al- Laklak Care Center for the Disabled.

It has also dispatched notices to stop refurbishment works at a number of Islamic buildings, it ordered the deportation of Arab Jahaleen from their land located on the eastern outskirts of Jerusalem, to establish more settlements for Jewish immigrants and religious groups, it opened more bypass roads linking

Palestinian demonstrators started to hurl stones against Israeli police near Al-Sahera Gate 'Herod's Gate' in Arab East Jerusalem, eleven Palestinians were reported arrested.

At Al Zahra' street, demonstrators engaged with Israeli police and army who used bu, and gas bombs to disperse demonstrators, arresting 19 other peoples.

At the meantime, the High Islamic Congress, the representatives of East Jerusalem at the Palestinian Legislative Council(PLC), and other activists held an emergency meeting at Al Aqsa mosque in which they've condemned the Israeli conspiracy and called for a commercial strikes in addition to inviting people to assemble at Bab Al- Amod at 12:00 noon to protest the new Israeli violations.

Things continued to develop taking large-scale demonstrations in most Palestinian cities and rural areas in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Jerusalem took the initiative and its inhabitants were the vanguards which moved to defend the Mosque.

People started to assemble near Bab Al Al-Amod " Damascus gate" amongst of whom were Minister of Higher Education Dr. Hannan Ashrawi, the Minister of Finance Mohammed Nashashibi, Minister of Wakf (Religious Affairs) Sheikh Hassan Tahboob, the Mufti of Jerusalem Sheikh Ikrima Sabry, and senior officials including members of the PLC and clergymen.

They started chanting slogans against the Israeli occupation and its coercive measures against the Islamic and Christian holy places.

On the other side, additional Israeli army and police reinforcements were deployed to attack the demonstrators asking them to disperse, claiming that the demonstration is illegal. The Israeli Police and the Paramilitary police " Israeli Border Police" started to use clubs and rifle butts to disperse them inflicting bruises and wounds on Mrs. Ashrawi, Mr. Nashashibi, and Sheikh Tahbob and many others, in addition to arresting PLC's member Ahmed Al Batsh.

At another place, Palestinian crowds were assembling at Al Wad quarter and started to move towards Bab Al Al-Amod. The Israeli army erected barricades to prevent demonstrators from reaching Bab Al Al-Amod.

At Bab Al Wad, police attacked the demonstrators wounding two persons.

A third demonstration set out from Al Aqsa Mosque heading to Herod's Gate and Bab Al Al-Amod via Sultan Sueilman street. At this street, an Israeli cavalry division tried to intercept the march using rifle butts and clubs.

side. four Palestinians were reported killed and 250 others wounded including 6 seriously injured.

The massacre came after about one thousand students from Bir Zeit university assembled near the Israeli military checkpoint.

In the late afternoon hours, the Israeli army attempted once again to occupy Ramallah from "Sath Marhaba" quarter using Copra helicopters in this offensive. This time the Palestinian security forces has engaged with the intruders and succeeded in preventing their advance. During this duel two Palestinians were killed and many others wounded.

According to a statement given by the director of Ramallah hospital Dr. Shawki Harb, five people were killed and 300 wounded up to the evening of Wednesday Sept. 25, 1996.. He said Israeli soldiers were aiming their guns to the head and chests of the demonstrators and not to the bottom half of the bodies, this come as a result of a shoot to kill policy perpetrated by the Israeli army.

The Israeli military spokesman admitted casualties among the Israeli, but declined to elaborate.

### **Violent Clashes in Hebron**

Hebron city has witnessed severe clashes between Palestinian demonstrators and Israeli army and settlers, whereas another peaceful demonstrations extended to cover all villages and towns in the Hebron district.

More Israeli reinforcements were sent to the city to quell the demonstrations.

On-foot patrols wandered through the old town as the army forces were engaged in concentrating more military points at Bab Al Zaweyya and Shalala street.

In downtown Hebron, two Palestinians were wounded near Al Ibrahimy Mosque by Israeli firing squads. Other encounters erupted between students and army units near Ali hospital were 20 citizens mostly students were arrested. A huge sit-in strike was staged in front of the municipality building in Bethlehem to protest the infringement by Israeli troops of Palestinian rights in Jerusalem.

### **Demonstrations and confrontations in Bethlehem**

overdue agreements including redeployment from Hebron and the interim agreements.

### **Thursday, 26 September 1996**

#### **Clashes in Jerusalem:**

The Israeli government dispatched more reinforcements to Jerusalem to quell demonstrations at Al Aqsa mosque expected to follow the Friday Prayers.

As the Israeli army was busy in reinforcing its positions, a huge demonstration set out towards Bab Al Al-Amod Gate and engaged with army forces culminating into unidentified number of casualties including the injury of the member of the PLO's Executive Committee Mr. Faisal El Hussein.

Jerusalem's neighborhoods of Abu Dis, Ezzeryya, and Shufat, witnessed clashes between Palestinian demonstrators and Israeli occupation forces.

As Israel announced sending another 3,000 soldiers to Jerusalem, Knesset members from the Labor Party and Meretz, visited the headquarters of the High Islamic Council, and the Orient House to condemn the opening of the tunnel and to denounce the Israeli right wing government policies headed by Benjamin Netanyahu.

Another demonstration, lead by Faisal Hussein, set out from Al Aqsa Mosque toward Bab Al Al-Amod. The demonstrators raised placards reading "Jerusalem and Hebron First". Mr. Hussein addressed the masses after their arrival at Bab Al Al-Amod.

As Mr. Hussein was addressing the demonstrators, the Israeli army brutally attacked the listening crowds inflicting heavy casualties including Hussein who was rushed to Al Makassid Hospital in East Jerusalem.

#### **Gaza Strip Vents frustration**

Infuriated by Israeli killing of Palestinian demonstrators in Ramallah the previous day, huge crowds thronged the main streets of Gaza on foot or by using cars, buses and lorries, heading towards Israeli military checkpoints and roads used by Israeli patrols.

The first confrontations took place at Kfar Darom settlement near Deir Baleh city and at 'Natsirm junction' in addition to 'Erez' checkpoint.



## **Ramallah pays farewell to its martyrs**

Fighting resumed for the second straight day near Al Ma'lofeyya military checkpoint on Ramallah-Jerusalem highway, between Palestinian demonstrators and the Israeli army.

During the fierce battle, the Israeli army used helicopters in shelling civilians and Palestinian security forces

Eight persons were killed and 70 others wounded during the day's fighting.

The Israeli forces stationed at three locations i.e. (1) the main street near the military checkpoint (2) the hilltop adjoining the checkpoint (3) The hilltop overlooking "Sath Marhaba" housing quarter.

The Palestinian forces stationed at different locations to prevent the advance of the attackers to the PNA's area.

## **Bethlehem turns out into a battlefield**

Fighting brokeout between Israeli soldiers and Palestinian security forces near Rachael Tomb after the Israeli army hurled gas bombs, and fired rubber and live ammunition against Palestinian unarmed demonstrators.

The area became a battlefield as both sides exchanged fire when Israeli military vehicles tried to advance in the area controlled by the Palestinian security forces.

The Israeli army used internationally prohibited weapons in their attack. Two Palestinians were reported killed in the battle.

Severe clashes flared up at 'Takko', Bit Fajjar, and Bit Sahour, when Israeli forces started shooting at random against Palestinians demonstrators inflicting numerous casualties.

## **Hebron: Fierce confrontations despite the curfew**

Fighting erupted in Hebron and all towns and villages in the largest Palestinian province, in the aftermath of massive demonstrations staged to protest the opening of the tunnel and Israel's refusal so far to redeploy from the city.

The Israeli army intensified its armored patrols at Bab Al Zaweyya and other quarters in the city which was observing a day of mourning called by the PNA in remembrance of Wednesday's martyrs.

Immediately after the Friday prayers at the Al-Aqsa mosque ended, and on its ground, Israel special forces and Israeli Paramilitary border police attacked Muslim prayers in an attempt to preempt Palestinians from demonstrating against the Israeli occupation presence in Arab East Jerusalem. The Israeli attackers fatally shoot three Palestinian men and injured score of others some seriously. The Palestinians not intimidated by the Israel heavy armed soldiers nevertheless demonstrated in the city, and fierce confrontations follow. The Israeli committed many massacres in Jerusalem most prominent of which that occurred on Monday Oct. 8, 1990 when 28 Palestinians were killed and more than 90 wounded.

Palestinians inside the Green line express solidarity with the Palestinian people inside the West Bank and Gaza strip:

From Upper Gallili in the north to the Negev desert in the south, the huge Palestinian masses living inside the green observed Friday Sept. 27, 1996 as a day of moaning, a day of a general strikes and protest marches in sympathy with their Palestinian brethren in Jerusalem, the remainder of the West Bank and Gaza.

In Nazareth, a big demonstration through the main street of the city headed to the cultural municipal center and were addressed by professor Raji Mansour, and mayor of the city Ramiz Jaraiceh who signaled the significance of the decision to strike and organize the marches. He said our people could not stand as a spectator to the bloody events taking place in Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza.

Palestinian Knesset member Azmi Bshara said, what the Israeli government is doing in the West Bank and Gaza has been planned for a long time, the Israeli government is dealing with the Palestinian people in the same way White South Africa dealt with the native south African before their liberation, the Apartheid white minority racist rule that existed in South Africa before is being applied here in Palestine.

In Rena town, a massive demonstration took place to condemn Netanyahu's policies and the assassination of innocent Palestinian civilians. At Tor'an village a peaceful march was organized to protest the Israeli atrocities and to express solidarity with the victims of the Israeli army attacks. Similar protests were made by Palestinians in Yafet El Naserah town, in Dabboriya, Iksal, Kufr

The latest explosion of violence that erupted on Wednesday, 25 September 1996 throughout the Palestinian West Bank and Gaza Strip in response to the Israeli opening of a tunnel underneath the Al-Aqsa Mosque, one of Islam's holiest sites, has left 61 Palestinians killed and more than 1500 injured.

During the period 25/09/1996 and as of this writing, the international press in addition to covering the immediate cause of the fierce protests, i.e., opening of the tunnel, highlighted the underlying Palestinian frustration over Israeli delays in implementing the terms of the interim agreement, including a long overdue troop pullback from the West Bank town of Hebron where not more than 250 settlers have wedged themselves into a Palestinian city center of approximately 160,000.

Most, if not all the articles reviewed compared the latest eruption to that of the *Intifada*, or Palestinian uprising of 1987-1993, and warned of a "*New Intifada*", if the Netanyahu Likud government does not fulfill its obligations to the peace agreements.

The following are extracts from international press articles covering the current situation:

**Financial Times**, (26/9/96): "Israeli Troops in Gun Battle on West Bank"

"In a serious setback for the Mideast peace process, Israeli troops opened fire after hundreds of youths took the streets to protest the opening of the tunnel in the old city of Jerusalem. They threw stones, reminiscent of the intifada, or uprising by Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories in late 1987." According to Mr. Arafat, "The opening of the tunnel represented an attempt by the Israelis to Judaize the city".

"Peace negotiations have virtually come to a stand still since the right-wing national Likud party, headed by Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu was elected".

“...Britain urged Israeli and Palestinian leaders to show statesmanship”.

“...Norway - “The broad unrest is a signal of the deep frustration among many sectors of the Palestinian community as a result of the lack of progress in the peace process”.

“...Russia described the popular reaction as a spontaneous protest by the Palestinian population”.

**Herald Tribune-Analysis**,(28/09/1996):“Palestinian Weapons make the crucial difference”

... “The confrontation leaves Israeli Minister, Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu, with a stark choice. He can seek to satisfy his right-wing supporters and shatter the terms of the Oslo peace agreement between Israel and the PLO by sending Israeli troops back to the cities and populated areas of the West Bank and Gaza to restore order. Or he can try to move to the political center by re-establishing the partnership with the PLO, that was the centerpiece of the accord between the two long-standing enemies.”

**Australian Press**, (28/09/1996): Ross Dunn - “The Day Peace Died”

... “The causes of the worst violence for more than 10 years, lie even deeper than the opening of a new tunnel near the Islamic holy sites in Jerusalem’s old city.... The real target was the right-wing Israeli Prime Minister, Benyamin Netanyahu, who came to power in May and began displaying a “get tough” attitude towards Arafat. Three months in office, the new Israeli government had turned the Palestinian authority from a potential peace partner into an enemy”.

**Associated Press**, (28.9.96): "Diplomats Urge Israeli Peace Talks"

"In a clear message that days of bloodshed must end, Yasser Arafat's policemen clubbed, cajoled and dragged away Palestinians marching Saturday(28.9.96) on Israeli army posts and Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip...But they[demonstrators] met a line of policemen, sometimes four deep that stretched across the street. "Don't let there be more killings, a Palestinian police commander urged the crowd".

**Reuters**, (29.9.96): "Israel, PLO collaborate to stem violence"

"Israeli and Palestinian security forces were on high alert on Saturday to try to stem the bloodletting after three days of clashes in the West Bank, Gaza and Jerusalem in which 68 people were killed. Israeli and Palestinian security officials met to discuss ways of calming the situation, said Jibril Rajoub, the Palestinian security chief in the West Bank".

**The WasPost**, (29.9.96):

Barton Gellman

"The street combat between Israelis and Palestinians over the past four days, in some ways the worst in the nearly 29 years since Israel conquered the West Bank and Gaza Strip, left an equally grave political crisis unresolved. And the man who had the most to decide, Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, appeared profoundly unsure tonight of what to do....He allowed his top ministers to meet Arafat but ignored treaty deadlines obliging Israel to make concrete transfers of land and power."

**Associated Press**, (30/09/1996)

"Binyamin Netanyahu may be the best educated, most articulate and most telegenic Israeli to become prime minister. So now that he needs his people's support, why does he seem so alone?"...On Sunday(30.9.96), it was difficult to find a kind word in Israel's media for the beleaguered "Bibi".

Nations Security Council to halt Israel's 'aggression' against the Palestinians. According to Esmat Abdel Majuid, secretary general of the League said, "We want to establish peace but Israeli actions are torpedoing the peace process".

Syria: Syria's official daily al Baath newspaper said the bloody clashes in the occupied territories signaled the start of a new more powerful uprising against Israel. It described the Palestinian outrage as "natural".

Lebanon: The Lebanese government condemned what it call Israel's massacres of civilians. It called on all Arabs to take a strong unified stand."

Saudi Arabia: Saudi Arabia denounced Israel's extension of a tunnel under Al-Aqsa mosque in East Jerusalem as "a blow to Moslem feelings".

Turkey: Foreign Minister, Tansu Chellor has informed her Israeli counterpart, David Levi, that Turkey will reconsider its relations with his country should Israel continue its destructive policy in Jerusalem and against the Palestinian people. Mr. Arbakan, head of the government, described the opening of the tunnel as a serious provocation which led to bloody confrontation and a great loss of lives.

European Union(EU): In a statement, the EU has expressed its deep concern about the Israeli measures, holding Israel primarily responsible for the "disproportionate use of force during recent violence. Venting their fury over Israel's obstruction of the Middle East peace process, the EU threw its full diplomatic weight behind Palestinian demands for the closure of the Jerusalem tunnel. European Union foreign ministers who met in Luxembourg, explicitly denounced Israel's deployment of tanks and helicopter gunships against Palestinian protesters and made clear their opposition to any Israeli claim of sovereignty over East Jerusalem, calling for the cessation and reversal of all acts which may affect the status of the holy places in Jerusalem. It went on to insist that East Jerusalem is fully covered by a United Nations resolution on "the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force" and it is "not under Israeli sovereignty". In its statement, the EU believes the restoration of calm depends on rapid implementation of promises to withdraw Israeli troops from Hebron and the release of Palestinian prisoners. But it also wants Netanyahu to take "urgent action to alleviate the economic plight of Palestinians by

Organization of African Unity (OAU): The OAU said in a statement that the organization views the renewal of clashes and violence in the region with great concern. The statement further reiterated its support for peace in the Middle East and is troubled that the current violence may obstruct the peace process. The OAU requests the Israeli authorities to respect its responsibilities regarding the peace accords reached and to reduce the escalation of tensions.

Paris: In Paris, a press statement released by the director general of UNESCO expressed his heart felt condolences to the families and friends of the victims and called for commitments to the Oslo Agreements and denounced the Israeli opening of the tunnel in Jerusalem which goes against the "New Delhi Recommendations of 1956" and Israel signed, which forbids Israel from such digs in the Palestinian occupied territories.

UN Security Council: Drafted the following resolution:

*Having considered the letter dated 26 September 1996 from the representative of Saudi Arabia on behalf of the States Members of the League of Arab States, contained in document S/1996/790, that referred to the action by the Government of Israel to open an entrance to a tunnel in the vicinity of Al Aqsa Mosque and its consequent results,*

*Expressing its deep concern about the tragic events in Jerusalem and the areas of Nablus, Ramallah, Bethlehem and the Gaza Strip, which resulted in a high number of deaths and injuries among the Palestinian civilians, and concerned also about the clashes between the Israeli army and the Palestinian police and the casualties on both sides,*

*Recalling its resolutions on Jerusalem and other relevant Security Council resolutions,*

*Having discussed the situation at its formal meeting on 27 September 1996, with the participation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of a number of countries,*

*Concerned about the difficulties facing the Middle East peace process and the deterioration of the situation, including inter alia its impact on the living*

### **Israeli Public opinion and press reaction on the Palestinian renewed Intifada**

The bloody events that took place in the Palestinian territories last week in response to the latest provocation's of Ehud Olmert and Benjamin Netanyahu by opening the tunnel in the vicinity of the Aqsa mosque grounds in Arab East Jerusalem, these events brought home to the Israelis the potential dangers inherited in the obstinate policies of the current right wing government in Israel.

Public opinion polls conducted Monday September 29, 1996 showed that 57 percent of the Israeli Jews disapprove Benjamin Netanyahu's policies, 79.5 percent Israeli Jews support the peace process and 56 percent prefer the government to close the tunnel underneath the Aqsa mosque. Should Israelis who are not Jews have been included, the percentage opposing the policies of Netanyahu would have exceeded 75 percent, and those who supported the peace process would have exceeded 90 percent.

An Israeli journalist in the daily Israeli Ma'arive said in an editorial published Sunday Sept. 29, 1996 that " Netanyahu did not listen to his security and intelligence chiefs. Any one expecting a return to the Intifada in its previous form is mistaken, what the Israelis will be facing is a war.

The Palestinians are trying to push the peace process forward through the tragic escalation of violence every one seen and felt last week. The journalist added that the Syrian and Lebanese fronts are also volatile as a matter of fact a silent war is raging in south Lebanon." Reverting to the peace process the commentator added and the implementation of the Oslo accords is the only way to save us of the mayhem we are in, further delays will undoubtedly destroy everything Israel achieved in the way of the peace process over the last three years.

Ron Binshy from the Israeli Yediot Ahronot newspaper wrote in an article Sunday Sept. 29, 1996 that the calm being felt now is nothing but a truce, the fighting might erupt again if the meeting between Arafat and Netanyahu did not produce tangible results, Israel might find itself in a position similar to that of Russia in Chechenia, this would force the Israeli forces into the quagmire of an armed Intifada, it will create political instability in Israel and will isolate Israel on the International arena. Binshy added that Israel might need at the



## Martyrs of Al Aqsa Mosque

as of 25 September 1996

List of Martyrs according to Districts where killed:

( Rammallah/Al-Beireh District):

Name of Martyr	Age	Town/Village of Residence
Munir Yousef Jamhour	22	Beit 'Anan
Raed Abraham Sharaqa	14	Jalazoun refugee camp
Ashraf El-Ashram	28	Gaza
Ayman AbdelMajed Awwad	20	Ramallah
Abdel Jabar Awad Hasan	20	Deir Abu Mish'al
Yasser Omar Mahmoud Hamdan	20	Kobar
Jihad(Nasif) Samhan	30	Ras Karkar
Mohammad Abdallah Ahmad Hamid	13	Silwad
Jalal Abraham A'yish	20	Attirya
Fawzi Mohammad Mifleh Jamhour	23	Beit 'Anan
Tamam Ahmad Masoud Nuwarah	34	Mazra'ah El Qiblyeh
M'utez Musa Taha	22	Rafaat
Fayez Meshhour Mohammad Farhaat	22	Ramallah-Ein Misbah
Rafat Rashid Houshiya	19	Qatana
Eyad Mahmoud Tarifi	21	Ramallah
Abdel Fatah Abdel Majid Te'mah	18	Silwad
Eid Mahmoud Eissa	20	Beir Nabala
Mansour Shawamrah	22	Ramallah

( Bethlehem District)

Name of Martyr	Age	Town/Village of Residence
Mazen Abu 'Ahour	22	Beit Jala
Mohammad Abu Srouer	26	Beit Jala

Ashraf Abdel Karim	N/A	Hebron
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(Jerusalem District)

Name of Martyr	Age	Town/Village of Residence
Abraham Abu Ghanam	19	Attour - Al Quds
Jawad El Bazlamit	N/A	Al Quds
Hanin Qassem Harb	5 months	Shu'fat - Al Quds
Ayman Ihya Idkaydek	28	Attour - Al Quds

(Gaza District)

Name of Martyr	Age	Town/Village of Residence
Hani Jalal Musa	18	Deir El Balah
Rizek Sliman El Hawajrih	30	Deir El Balah
Qussayh Mohammad U'kasha	30	Jabalya
Qassem Sliman El Dajili	16	Deir El Balah
Noura Musa Sa'ad	13	Deir El Balah
Farid El D'aylus	20	Enseirat
Khalil Mohammad Ensayr	22	Beit Hanoun
Hasan Mohammad Elayzjih	40	Jabalya
Mohammad Hasan El Bayoumi	16	Rafah
Yousef Mahmoud El Beshiti	25	El Maghazi
Ali Osam Sharab	20	Gaza

