



Statement

Commenting on stationing tanks and armored vehicles on the outskirts of Palestinian cities, towns and villages, an informative source at the Palestine Ministry of Information issued the following statement:

In an unprecedented move since 1967 Israel moved tanks, armored vehicles and heavy guns and stationed them on the outskirts of Palestinian cities, towns and villages. An Israeli reporter described these guns as "positioned aimed and ready to be fired." The city of Jerusalem supposedly "United" did not escape deployment of heavy weapons on its soil, armored vehicles are stationed near Jafa Gate the Western entrance to the old city of Jerusalem.

The danger of deploying these heavy weapons stem from the fact that it came after the clashes between the Palestinian outraged protestors and the Israeli occupation forces has subsided, their deployment came as well in the wake of concerted world efforts to restore the situation to its previous status prior to the opening of the tunnel in Arab East Jerusalem, hence, the deployment of heavy weapons is another proof to those who need it, of the stubbornness of the Israeli Prime Minister, and the implementation of his twisted policies designed to further humiliate the Palestinian people, to strangle them to a point of starvation and to avoid the implementation of the signed agreements.

The deployment of heavy weapons came also to remind the Palestinian people of the bankrupt policies of the Israeli Generals which in spite of everything happened since Oslo and Washington, still persist in their heads, as if the experience of the invasion of Beirut and the massacres in Sabra and Shatila refugee camps had no consequence on their mentality.

It is clear that one of the objectives of the Israeli military is to exert pressure on the Palestinian leadership headed by President Arafat who will be traveling shortly to Washington, and to impose on him difficult choices. There is also the possibility that the weapons will be used to bombard and destroy Palestinian cities, towns, villages and refugee camps. The deployment of American made Israeli "Copras" and taking them into action against Palestinian civilian demonstrators and lightly armed Palestinian police force, the killing of more than 9 Palestinians and injuring more than 1600 is a proof of the extent to which the Israeli military mentality would go to achieve its objectives of suppressing the Palestinian people.

Member of the Israeli Knesset Azruel Biliner warned that the right wing extremist government in Israel, and in a special session two weeks ago, discussed the option of re-occupying Palestinian cities. The Israeli government adopted this option.

The Israeli government should be warned that any military adventure of this kind will have catastrophic consequences and will take the whole area back to the era of perpetual conflict.

What makes this especially disturbing is the blind and twisted mentality of the Israeli Prime Minister and his unparalleled arrogance.

The Palestinian people however, together with the Israeli peace camp, and all peace loving nations of the world are looking forward for the regional summit scheduled to be held in Washington soon. We are hoping for tangible results capable of putting the peace process back on track and will insist on the implementation of what was agreed upon in the peace accords of Oslo, Washington and Taba.

Palestine Ministry of Information

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