

Report on  
Israeli Human Rights Practices  
in the Occupied Territories  
During 1981

Compiled by

Palestine Human Rights Campaign

Washington Office

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## INTRODUCTION

The Department of State is mandated by U.S. law (PL 94-329) to prepare "full and complete" annual reports on the human rights practices of all countries for which the executive branch is proposing to give military or economic assistance. This law prohibits the granting of such U.S. foreign aid

to any country the government of which engages in a consistent pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights.

An earlier piece of human rights legislation identifies these "violations" as

including torture, or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; prolonged detention without charges; or flagrant denials of the rights of life, liberty and the security of the person (PL 93-559).

Since Israel is the single largest recipient of U.S. military and economic aid (Israeli receives 25% of all U.S. foreign aid) -- it is especially important that Israel's human rights record be scrutinized.

Past State Department Country Reports on Israeli practices in the territories occupied since the 1967 War suggest violations of a broad range of Palestinian human rights. The Reports, however, frequently understate the intensity or severity of the Israeli violations, or present them in so ambiguous a manner as to obscure the seriousness of the human rights situation in the occupied territories.

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The attached Report on Israeli Human Rights Practices in the Occupied Territories During the Year 1981 has been compiled by the

(continued on inside back cover)

REPORT ON ISRAELI HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES IN THE OCCUPIED  
TERRITORIES DURING THE YEAR 1981

The territories which Israel has occupied since 1967 consist of the West Bank (including East Jerusalem), the Gaza Strip, the Sinai Peninsula, and the Golan Heights. Since 1974, Israel has evacuated in stages approximately two-thirds of the Sinai and under the terms of the Egyptian-Israeli Treaty is scheduled to evacuate the rest of the peninsula in April 1982. In the Golan Heights, where about 18,000 Arabs reside, Israel has progressively extended its own law, and in December 1981, the Israeli government announced the annexation of this area. The annexation of the Golan Heights is in violation of international law, the Charter of the United Nations of which Israel is a member, and the Fourth Geneva Convention to which Israel is a signatory.

Almost all of the settled Arab population of the occupied territories (about 1.2 million) is located in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Except for the city of East Jerusalem and its suburbs which were annexed in violation of international law in June 1967, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip are governed under military occupation rules, and law enforcement and public security are in military rather than in civilian hands. In the past, non-security related administrative matters also were under the authority of the Israeli military. However, in November 1981, administrative affairs were transferred to the authority of an Israeli civilian official, albeit one who holds the rank of colonel in the reserves of the Israeli armed forces.

According to the provisions of the 1978 Camp David Accords, Egypt and Israel are obligated to negotiating a "Self-Governing Authority" for the West Bank and Gaza. This is to be an interim arrangement for a five-year period during which time further negotiations to determine the final status of the West Bank and Gaza are to be conducted. However, Egypt and Israel have been unable to reach an agreement defining the powers and responsibilities the proposed "Self-Governing Authority" would possess. Thus, by the end of 1981 this "Authority" still had not been established.

The occupation authorities govern the territories with a combination of pre-1967 law and military orders. The Arab population is not permitted to enact any laws, and any regulations must receive prior approval from the Israeli military. The Jewish residents of the settlements which Israel has established in the occupied territories in violation of international law have been accorded local self-government. The United Nations holds that the Fourth Geneva Convention concerning the protection of civilian populations under military occupation applies to Israel's governance of the occupied territories.

The U.S. has supported this interpretation since 1967. Israel denies that the Geneva Convention is applicable to its occupation.

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1. Respect for the Integrity of the Person, Including Freedom From:

a. Torture

Allegations about the use of torture including psychological pressures, physical maltreatment, and instances of brutality by Israeli officials during interrogation of Arab security suspects have been publicized widely in both the Israeli and international press during 1981.

Yahya Fayad, for example, a 17-year-old student from the Gaza Strip, testified about his alleged torture at a press conference in Jerusalem in September. His testimony and a corroborating polygraph test were filmed by ABC-TV for possible broadcast on the network's news program, "20/20." According to Mr. Fayad:

"The secret police suspected me of that they call 'inciting of my fellow students.' They arrested me at 12 midnight (in) my house. On my arrival in Gaza prison, I was taken into a special room not in the prison....and three sacks were put on my head. I was ordered to stand on my legs and not move...I think I stood so for 20 hours. Afterwards,...I was stripped naked and put under a cold shower. After a time...I was taken to the interrogation room. When I did not confess to 'inciting'...I was put under the same shower, but this time someone poured more cold water on me with a hose, in addition to the shower... Afterwards I was taken again to the interrogation room, and when again I refused to confess, I was ordered to stand on my legs without moving for a full two days... During all this standing time I was beaten by the interrogators in all parts of my body. They beat me with their fists, kicked me, my head was repeatedly beaten against the wall. When I fell on the floor from exhaustion, not only was I beaten and kicked more, but one of the interrogators used to force my mouth open and put his shoe there for a long time, another used to force my mouth open then spit into it. During all that time, the interrogators also threatened that they would bring before me my mother and sister and rape them."

-- Press Conference, Israel League for  
Human and Civil Rights, Jerusalem,  
September 16, 1981.

At least 40 additional instances of alleged torture have been described in Israeli newspapers. One case which received extensive coverage was that of Fayez Tarayre, a 23-year-old West Bank Arab who

was detained by Israeli security officials in June, subsequently became paralyzed and slipped into a coma while in prison, and died within four and one-half months of his arrest. In an interview with the Jerusalem English language weekly, al-Fajr, the detainee's lawyer stated in the October 30-November 5, 1981, issue:

"Fayez died because of severe torture, especially inhuman beating on his head. He complained of severe pain in his head and chest and difficulty in moving his joints. He related how he was constantly beaten and shifted from hot to cold showers while in detention. His scalp was inflamed, obviously due to hair being pulled out. He was trembling and was constantly trying to hide his head and his sex organs as if warding off possible blows."

In September, the Israeli League for Human and Civil Rights issued a report on torture and prison conditions in the four prisons in which most Arabs arrested for suspected security offenses are detained. This report was based upon the testimony which 12 Arab prisoners provided to an Israeli attorney who inspected the prisons. The report described eight forms of torture which it alleged were routine practices during the interrogation of suspects. These included forcing suspects to stand for hours, even days, without respite; blows to the genitals; forceful administration of mind-altering drugs; frequent beatings on all parts of the body; spraying with stinging gas and chemicals; spitting into the mouths; burning with cigarettes; and psychological intimidation in the form of verbal abuse, threats of sexual assault, and threats to family members.

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b. Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

Curfews increased in frequency and severity in 1981. Curfews were imposed upon at least 15 towns, villages and refugee camps for periods of severity ranging from two to 23 hours a day. Severe curfews were twice imposed upon the town of El-Bireh in the West Bank, in April following an incident in which an Israeli military vehicle was stoned by unidentified youths, and again in July after stones were thrown at an Israeli tour bus. The center of the city of Nablus was put under curfew in June following an incident in which an unexploded hand grenade was hurled at an Israeli bus touring the commercial district. Several villages and refugee camps were also placed under curfew for varying periods during the year. A particularly severe example involved six West Bank villages which were held under siege for six days from July 29 to August 3 while the Israeli army conducted house-to-house searches for suspected terrorists; this siege was accompanied by extensive brutality against villagers according to al-Fajr for August 9-15, 1981:

"During the siege Israeli soldiers rounded up the men, terrorized the women and children by shooting guns indiscriminately, breaking down house doors, tying up residents,

and shouting all forms of verbal abuse. Women were prevented from getting water from the wells, and authorities refused to grant permission for a doctor to attend to a seriously ill child who subsequently died."

All such curfews have caused considerable hardship to residents of affected towns, villages, and refugee camps since the people have been unable to go to their jobs, schools, or appointments nor obtain necessary provisions and services during the periods of imposed curfews.

Round-ups of men and young boys following a security incident have been frequent occurrences. At least 11 separate instances were reported in the Israeli press during 1981. During round-ups, people have been detained for hours, even days, without charges or interrogation. They are treated brutally by the soldiers and often forced to do demeaning work. One soldier who participated in several round-ups and witnessed the subsequent maltreatment of the detained Arabs described his experiences in a letter which was published in the newspaper Haolam Hazeh on February 4, 1981:

"One evening a group of about 30 young boys was brought to the military headquarters (in Ramallah) and were put to sleep in one of the storehouses... In the morning the yard was filled with Palestinian boys carefully cleaning the yard, collecting garbage, washing and putting things in order...in short workers...At night the boys were locked in the storehouse and received no food... I went to the kitchen and asked for food for them. The reply I received everywhere was the same: 'Let them die!'"

Round-ups and curfews are used as a form of general punishment against the community for security incidents. All such punitive curfews and round-ups contravene the Fourth Geneva Convention relating to the treatment of civilians in militarily occupied areas.

Beatings and other forms of degrading treatment reportedly have occurred during the round-ups of suspects following security incidents. In one instance, al-Fajr for May 31-June 6, 1981, reported on the case of a Palestinian man suspected of a security offense who was so severely beaten by Israeli border police sent to his home to arrest him that he died of the injuries. In August, the Israeli League for Human and Civil Rights issued a Declaration of Protest Against Policies in the Occupied Territories. This Declaration included summaries of reports which had been published in the Hebrew press during the first half of 1981. Two typical accounts which Israeli journalists had witnessed in the West Bank city of Ramallah are:

"Hundreds of high school students were arrested by the security forces. They were first made to run in the main streets of the city, goaded onwards with beatings by the soldiers, then they were made to clean one of the city streets with their shirts."

In another incident:

"When the boys who threw rocks at a military vehicle were not apprehended, tens of inhabitants, of all ages, were arrested 'en masse' as they were leaving a mosque. They were forced to pick up stones from the ground and to build a stone wall. After carrying out this punishment twice, not everyone was released; the high school students among them were detained in the Military Government building of Ramallah, without food and in bad sanitary conditions. They were forced to clean the soldiers' toilets, they were beaten and thus humiliated for several days."

Excessive force has frequently been used to quell demonstrations and in at least nine separate incidents during 1981 Arabs have been killed or wounded by gunfire. For example, Ha'Aretz reported on March 31:

"A woman inhabitant of the Jalazoon refugee camp (in the West Bank) was shot in the leg and slightly injured last Monday by an IDF officer. The officer was travelling in his car when he came up against a road block made of stones next to the camp. He fired into the air and one of his shots hit the woman, as she sat inside her home."

Newspapers have reported the deaths of two Palestinians and the wounding of at least 17 others as a result of Israeli security forces "shooting into the air" to disperse crowds or stop fleeing suspects.

Shooting incidents involving attacks by unidentified Israelis, presumably settlers, upon Arabs also have been reported. In all cases, it has been alleged that security forces do not investigate such incidents. For example, al-Fajr in its April 13-19 issue reported that:

"Three Palestinians were shot and wounded while riding in a car near Ramallah. The assailants were Israelis although their identity is unknown. The Military Government has taken no action in this case."

In January 1981, a member of the Israeli Knesset distributed to all members and the press copies of a letter from an Israeli soldier describing brutal acts which he and other soldiers had been ordered to carry out upon Arabs in the West Bank. The soldier charged that not only were such acts of brutality condoned, but that commanding officers severely reprimanded soldiers who, like himself, did not wish to participate in the maltreatment of Arab detainees.

Deportation of residents of the occupied territories have continued in further contravention of the Fourth Geneva Convention.; Al-Ha'mishmar reported on the case of Lina Qwidar who was ordered to leave the West Bank for Jordan after an argument with an Israeli soldier at a roadblock where papers are checked of Palestinians travelling between East

Jerusalem and the West Bank. According to its report of March 9, the soldier ordered her to go to the military government headquarters in Ramallah, and:

"When she got there, a major told her that he had discussed her case with the deputy military governor of Ramallah, who had ruled as follows: 'Someone who called an IDF soldier a liar has no right to remain in the country.' He ordered her to leave the next morning for Allenby Bridge and remain in Jordan for good."

Efforts continued throughout 1981 to have the military government reverse its 1980 deportation orders against the elected mayors of the West Bank towns of Hebron and Halhul. However, authorities refused to rescind their deportation.

Overcrowded prison conditions continue to be a problem. Throughout 1981 there were approximately 3,000 Palestinian political prisoners incarcerated in the occupied territories and Israel due to convictions of charges ranging from membership in a proscribed organization to participation in sabotage and terrorist activities against the occupation government. In all prisons, there were complaints about the conditions of incarceration. For example, al-Fajr for the week March 15-19 summarized a report which Palestinian prisoners at Ashkelon prison in Israel had issued through their lawyers. The prisoners complained that:

"They were subjected to frequent and unjustified searches of personal belongings; they were transferred to crowded cells which had been designed to serve as solitary confinement cells; their cells lacked any sanitary facilities; daily exercise periods had been shortened to one hour per day; prisoners had to sleep on cold, damp floors; medical attention and food were inadequate."

During the year, there were hunger strikes at various prisons to protest conditions. At Nafha prison where a mass hunger strike had occurred in the summer of 1980, a similar incident took place in the spring of 1981. There are reports that prisoners have been punished for participation in hunger strikes and other forms of protest. al-Fajr for April 19-25, 1981, reported that:

"Lawyers for prisoners at Nafha stated that their clients were beaten by prison guards but their complaints to officials have received no response."

A severe form of punishment has been the suspension of family visitation rights. In at least one instance visitors were not informed of the cancellation until after they had arrived at the prison. According to al-Fajr, June 21-27, 1981:

"Families of Palestinian prisoners incarcerated in Beersheba prison were told by authorities that they would not be permitted to visit relatives after they had travelled many



miles to reach the prison. They were given no reason for the cancellation of their monthly visitation rights. Some of the families who protested were beaten severely and arrested."

Serious problems of due process with respect to treatment of security suspect detainees remain in the occupied territories. Lawyers have charged that they are not permitted access to their clients until up to three weeks following an arrest. The International Committee of the Red Cross has sought to have its representatives visit detainees as soon as possible after arrest. However, Israel has refused to allow visits during the first twelve days of arrest, except in cases approved by security officials; subsequent visits by representatives of the ICRC may only take place at 14-day intervals, although Israel has retained the right to suspend such visits. While the ICRC does not report on its relations with governments, lawyers and family members of prisoners have alleged that Israeli authorities routinely hamper the work of the ICRC with respect to their efforts to aid prisoners. For example, al-Fajr reported in its August 16-22 issue that:

"Israeli authorities prevented the ICRC from transferring medicine to a Palestinian detainee in a Gaza Strip prison who was suffering from severe pain in his eyes, according to prisoner's attorney who had been trying to arrange medical treatment for his client."

The case of Ziad Abu Eain, a Palestinian resident of Ramallah in the West Bank, represents a special instance of maltreatment. Abu Eain was arrested in the U.S. in 1979 and detained for two years while the U.S. courts decided upon an Israeli request for his extradition. Israel charged that he was suspected of a "security offense," based upon uncorroborated, third-party, hearsay evidence obtained from an alleged accomplice who signed a confession in a language which he did not understand after a prolonged detention during which all access to counsel was denied. The U.S. State Department concurred in Abu Eain's extradition in December 1981; he was immediately turned over to Israeli custody, flown to Israel, and imprisoned in the Russian Compound detention center in Jerusalem. Subsequently, his lawyer filed a formal complaint with the Israeli government protesting Abu Eain's treatment. According to his lawyer, Abu Eain:

"...was taken out of his cell at night and forced to stay all night in the outdoors. He had a nylon bag on his head while his hands were cuffed... He had been subjected to this kind of treatment several times."

-- al-Fajr (December 27, 1981)

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c. Disappearances

There are reports that arrests frequently occur without prompt notification of family or attorneys. There is still no trace of

certain Arabs who disappeared in the 1970s, most prominent of whom was the editor of al-Fajr. The Israeli military government informed one family early in 1981 that a son who disappeared in 1975 was dead, but that it does not know where the body is buried.

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d. Arbitrary Arrest and Imprisonment

Under the Fourth Geneva Convention, administrative detention is not permissible beyond one year from the "general close of military operations." Nevertheless, the Israeli military authorities routinely use administrative detention in the occupied territories. As applied by security officials administrative detention means the arrest and detention without the bringing of any specific charges of individuals for an indefinite period. Permission for or denial of visitation rights during administrative detention is at the discretion of the military. During 1981, the press was able to confirm at least 70 cases of administrative detention of Arabs from the occupied territories. Most of these persons were detained for at least one week without charges; there were at least ten persons who had been in administrative detention for several months. The most severe case is that of Ali Awad Al-Jamal from the West Bank town of Jenin who has been held without any charges since May 1975.

In addition to administrative detention, arrests occur for charges which are essentially arbitrary in the sense that the indicated activities do not violate any existing statute or regulation. For example, al-Fajr reported on two such arrests:

"The artist/cartoonist for al-Fajr was arrested and imprisoned in Ramallah for nine days for photographing villages in the West Bank 'without authorization.' During his imprisonment he was interrogated about his work and personal life." (August 9-15, 1981)

"Israeli authorities arrested 25 students in Jerico who had been helping farmers pick fruit. Since they were not residents of the village, they were not authorized to work there, even on a volunteer basis." (June 7-13, 1981)

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e. Denial of Fair Public Trial

Pre-1967 law as modified by Israeli military orders and regulations is in force in the occupied territories for civil and criminal matters. Its adjudication has been left in the hands of the indigenous judiciary. There have been no substantive complaints about the manner in which most of them carry out their duties. Evidence indicates that residents of the occupied territories accused of non-security offenses receive fair public trials in local civilian courts.

Alleged security offenders are tried in Israeli military courts, with a military judge trained in law presiding. Defendants are not always allowed to have counsel. For example, in June 1981, al-Fajr reported the case of 72 female students from a refuge camp near the town of Bethlehem:

"The students were arrested for participating in a funeral procession of a youth killed by Israeli gunfire. The authorities maintained that this action was a demonstration and therefore it was 'illegal.' The students were tried in military court without the assistance of defense lawyers. They were found guilty and fined 3000 Israeli shekels." (June 21-27 and June 28-July, 1981)

While military regulations require simultaneous translation of trial proceedings into Arabic, there have been complaints from prisoners that insufficient steps have been taken to enable them to follow the Hebrew proceedings, and that the confessions which they signed and which are used as the principal prosecution evidence are written in Hebrew, a language most of them do not understand. Prisoners have also stated in court that their confessions were signed under coercion, but such charges rarely are investigated by presiding judges, even when defense attorneys request an impartial investigation. If a defendant is convicted of a security offense in a military court, no appeal of the verdict is possible. The area military commander does have authority to commute sentences.

Most military trials are open to the public. However, presiding judges have the authority to schedule private sessions. Attorneys for Arab prisoners allege that non-public trials take place whenever their clients have been so injured by torture that their condition would be obvious in public courtrooms. In addition, they claim that postponements of trials occur without any advance notice, that defense witnesses usually are not allowed to testify, and the range of charges classifiable as security offenses is arbitrary. For example, al-Fajr reported on one trial in January:

"The relatives of Yassin Zidat, who is accused of participating in the attack on Hebron (Israeli) settlers last May (1980), were sentenced to jail for not reporting him to the Military Authorities. (Zidat's) mother and sister were sentenced to six months, his 75-year-old father to one year, and his brother-in-law to two years. In passing sentence the Military Court ignored the defense's argument that it was inhumane, and a violation of human rights as well as of Israeli and Jordanian law, to require families to inform on close relatives." (al-Fajr, January 25, 1981)

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f. Invasion of the Home

Under emergency regulations, military authorities can and do enter private homes and institutions as they see fit. During the summer of 1981, there were three separate incidents of mass house searches by security officers following which numerous allegations of breakage, despoliation and beatings were raised, including reports that local military commanders acquiesced in such actions. For example, al-Fajr for June 14-20 reported that:

"The Al-Bureij refugee camp in the Gaza Strip has been under nightly attack by Israeli troops since June 9. The troops break into homes, harass and interrogate the occupants, destroy furniture, windows, and doors."

Similar charges concerning individual or groups of soldiers, not under the observable authority of an officer, have also been raised. For example, a report in the August 23-30 edition of al-Fajr noted that:

"Two men in Israeli military uniforms raided a shop in El-Bireh (town), confiscated 1300 Israeli shekels, the drove away in an Israeli military vehicle."

There have also been numerous incidents of Israeli settlers invading and vandalizing homes, shops, and schools of Arabs. The most serious incidents have been in the West Bank city of Hebron. According to a report in Ha'Aretz of April 3, 1981:

"Local home owners and shopkeepers raised similar complaints in a press conference held at their town hall last Wednesday for several hours in the presence of Hebron's mayor and local councilors. Nearly all of them told the same story: The children (of Israeli settlers) living in the Hadassa building were stoning the neighboring houses. They would also throw stones at people walking below and sometimes urinate into the street, frequently soaking passers-by. The shopkeepers said that customers now avoided their street because they were frightened of the settlers. Armed settlers were allegedly entering the local shops on a regular basis to demand the identity cards of owners and customers."

In violation of the Geneva Convention, houses of families of individuals suspected of involvement in terrorist acts or located in the vicinity of terrorist incidents have been demolished or sealed up and the families displaced. In 1981, at least 23 homes were destroyed and there were at least three other homes sealed up on security grounds. Most of the house demolitions took place after the announcement of a new "get-tough" policy by the Israeli government in November, and is aimed at punishing attacks on public and military vehicles such as the throwing of stones and fire bombs at them.

Arabs of the occupied territories also suffer from acts of violence perpetrated by Israeli settlers. There have been numerous incidents

of unidentified Jews attacking both persons and property; at least one Arab woman was killed by Jewish armed assailants, in March, and several Arabs of both sexes and all ages have been beaten by settler vigilante groups. While arrests of Arabs occur following virtually all attacks against Jews or the Israeli military, there have been no arrests of Israeli settlers in connection with their various acts of violence against Arabs. Charges have appeared in the Israeli press that the government intentionally ignores the problem of settler terrorism. Ha'Aretz, for example, stated on April 4, 1981, that:

"The military government continues its long and disreputable tradition of turning a blind eye to the settlers... When it closed the file on the wrecking of the floor of the Arab shop in the Haçassa building last month, the military government was only observing its custom of overlooking the settlers' activities."

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2. Government Policies Relating to the Fulfillment of Such Vital Needs as Food, Shelter, Health Care, and Education.

Investment in economic infrastructure in the occupied territories has been small. In 1981, the military government allowed an Arab-owned bank in Gaza to re-open for business. This is the first instance of a pre-1967 bank being permitted to operate; otherwise, only Israeli banks are allowed to operate in the occupied territories. Numerous complaints have been made that Israel restricts economic development on both political and commercial grounds, thereby keeping the West Bank and Gaza especially as captive markets. Israeli-imposed restrictions in the economic sphere affect development in several different ways. For example, farmers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip need permission from military authorities to sell their produce outside of the occupied territories. In 1981, there were several instances of prohibitions on the marketing of crops. al-Fajr reported that in June West Bank farmers had been forbidden from selling their almonds in Israel which in past years had constituted a primary market for their produce. It was alleged that this ban was a result of pressure from Israeli growers. (al-Fajr, June 28-July 4, 1981) In May, West Bank farmers in the Tulkarem area were refused permission to export any of their fruit crops, allegedly in reprisal for anti-occupation political activities in the affected villages (al-Fajr, April 26-May 2, 1981). More serious was a military ban on the export of all Arab agricultural products to Israel at the end of July; this resulted in much spoilage and waste, and an economic hardship to farmers.

In 1981, the military government adopted a new policy of forbidding West Bank and Gaza organizations from accepting any funds for developmental projects from the Jordan-based Joint Committee on grounds that this Committee was funded by the PLO. The Joint Committee had become a major source of financial support for municipal construction projects and charitable activities of social welfare groups such as local Red Crescent and Red Cross societies. The ban on receipt of these funds

has not been countered with the provision of additional support from the military government. As a result, numerous projects have been abandoned. al-Fajr noted the impact in its edition for August 9-15, 1981:

"The municipalities of the West Bank do not receive adequate funds from the military government to cover their normal operating budgets. This has become a critical problem since the military government forbade the municipalities from accepting any funds from Amman. The municipalities now do not have enough money to continue operations. Beit Sahur, for example, receives only JD 1700 (Jordanian Dinars) for its budget from the military government, but its ordinary budget is JD 100,000."

During 1981, the military government did give financial support to the "Village Leagues," and encouraged the formation of new leagues in the Bethlehem and Ramallah area in addition to the original Hebron area one organized in 1979. The leaders of these leagues cooperate with the Israeli authorities, in contrast to the elected mayors of the towns who actively oppose the occupation. Because of their willingness to collaborate, the Village League leaders have received favored treatment. According to Merle Thorpe, President of the Foundation for Middle East Peace, in testimony before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs on December 16, 1981:

"During 1981, the negative reaction to the Leagues has become quite strong. (Nevertheless), in order to advance the leadership role of Mr. Dondin (Head, Hebron League) and the others, the Military Government gives them a facilitator role. The Military Government stated that it was funneling rural village development funds through the organization."

Military government rules also affect private businesses. There has been a long-term effort to force the Arab-owned Jerusalem Electricity Company, which provides service in East Jerusalem and the West Bank, to sell its properties to the Israeli government. Early in 1981, the Israeli Supreme Court ruled that the Israeli government could purchase the installations and concessions in East Jerusalem, but not in the West Bank. The JEC is the largest private concern in the occupied territories which is wholly owned and managed by Arabs, and employs more than 400 workers; its treatment by Israeli authorities is widely perceived as symbolic of official attitudes toward the establishment of Arab enterprises.

Taxes are another area about which residents of the occupied territories have complained. In both East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights, most Israeli taxes, including the Value Added Tax, are in force. There have been reports that these taxes are collected forcibly by soldiers, and that severe fines have been imposed for alleged late payments. In the West Bank and Gaza the military government has decreed a number of taxes which have affected the merchants. The West Bank

Chamber of Commerce has claimed that these taxes are arbitrary, unreasonably high, and aimed at forcing shops out of business (al-Fajr, March 15-21, 1981).

Throughout 1981, an average of 80,000 Arab laborers from the occupied territories were employed in Israel. These were primarily unskilled jobs, about 40 percent in construction. The workers commuted to the job sites daily, returning to the occupied territories after work since they are forbidden to stay overnight in Israel. Most workers are registered with the government labor office which gives them legal status as alien workers, but a significant minority are hired illegally by Israeli employers. Arab workers from the occupied territories are paid low wages in comparison to unskilled Jewish workers, have no job security, receive no benefits, are forbidden to join unions, and may be dismissed without cause. Several Israeli papers featured articles describing the work conditions of the Arabs who work in Israel, and concluded that the conditions were deplorable. In one instance, an Israeli judge ruled that benefits be provided to dependents of workers killed in industrial accidents, acknowledging that working conditions could be blamed for the tragedy. As reported in the Jerusalem Post on September 25, 1981:

"Sharply criticizing the 'sub-human' working and living conditions in Israel of illegal Arab labourers from the territories, the National Labour Court in Jerusalem yesterday upheld for the first time the right of the family of such a worker killed in a work accident to receive benefits from the National Insurance Institute... The judge declared that because of the 'sub-human' conditions of labour, he would seek a 'humanist interpretation' to the law..."

A special characteristic of the labor situation is the large number of Palestinian children who work as commuting day laborers in Israel. Although Israeli law forbids employment of youths under age 16, authorities do not interfere with their recruitment by employers. According to Aman Elon writing in Ha'Aretz, April 24, 1981:

"The so-called 'children's market' still goes on in the Ashkelon intersection. The many hundreds of adult job seekers from the (Gaza) strip who reach this depot every morning at five are joined by crowds of children aged 9-12. They hire themselves out as agricultural laborers. Every morning Israeli employers from far and near come and load them into their vans. Last week, in the morning I was present, the children were promised daily wages of 300 Israeli pounds (\$4 U.S.). Later on that day the price went down to 280 IL."

Another Israeli reporter visited the Ashkelon Junction, a highway crossroads on the border between Israel and the Gaza Strip, in August and found that:

"In a rough count I saw 110 children in the ages 9-15... there were no Israeli employment controllers to be found

at the place. The children offered themselves as cheap labor to any car passing by. This is taking place not during school vacation, but at a time the schools are already open."

-- Ha'Aretz, September 10, 1981

Employment opportunities for skilled workers and professionals are severely limited in the occupied territories. Consequently, many persons, especially those with higher educations, migrate to other countries where they may utilize their training in good-paying jobs. As many as 15,000 to 20,000 are expected to leave the occupied territories during 1981.

Israeli settlement activity in the occupied territories has adversely affected the livelihood of many Arab residents, particularly as the result of the military expropriation of agricultural land for Israeli civilian settlements. In many instances those affected have had to leave farming to become day laborers in Israel. In contravention of the Fourth Geneva Convention's Article 49, Israel has established about 180 civilian settlements for its own citizens in the occupied territories. This number includes 12 large development areas with approximately 60,000 Israeli residents in East Jerusalem; 85 settlements in various parts of the West Bank which have an Israeli population of about 30,000; 30 settlements in the Golan Heights which have a population of 6,000 Israelis; 30 settlements in the Gaza Strip with about 1,500 Israelis; and 19 settlements in the Sinai which Israel has agreed to dismantle before returning the area back to Egypt in April 1982 under the terms of the Egypt-Israel peace accords.

In 1981, Israel established 17 new settlements in the West Bank, three new ones in Gaza, and four in the Golan Heights. These settlements were established despite an announcement made by the Begin government in September 1980 that only four more settlements would be set up in the West Bank. The accelerated pace of settlement activity, the efforts of Minister of Agriculture Ariel Sharon to mobilize support for increased settlement, and the Israeli government's endorsement of the Drobbls Plan for expanding existing and creating new Israeli settlements on the West Bank have all prompted several Israeli commentators to express alarm over policies they refer to as "creeping annexation." For example, Dani Rubinstein, writing in the Israeli monthly New Outlook (June 1981) noted:

"In actuality the option of annexation has been exercised... The Begin government can boast that it has prevented the possibility of dividing Eretz Yisrael... More than a million and half dunams of West Bank land, out of a total of 5.5 million dunams, (has) come under Israeli control, i.e., almost a third... Land appropriations and Israeli settlements have become extensive..."

The expropriation of land for the establishment of Israeli settlements has been a major Arab grievance in the occupied territories. In 1981, at least 49,121 dunams (12,000 acres) of privately-owned land



was expropriated in the West Bank alone. Since 1979, the military government has adopted a controversial policy of declaring any land whose ownership is not officially registered -- which is the case for 70 percent of West Bank agricultural land -- as state land and seizing it for whatever purposes the government deems fit. Several Israeli papers have criticized this practice. For example, on March 23, Ha'Aretz analyzed the policy thusly:

"With encouragement from above, the Military Government in the West Bank has found a devious way to overcome restrictions imposed by the High Court of Justice on land seizures in the Territories... This device is questionable, but its effectiveness is evident: instead of issuing confiscation orders and risking appeals to the High Court, as happened in Elon Moreh, the Military Government simply defines a certain territory as 'state-owned land'... Local people affected by the military measure have restricted rights at best. They may appeal the decision within three weeks to a military panel. This is not a legal tribunal, but a committee composed of lawyers who serve as reservists in the army, are subject to military discipline and hardly independent. Their decisions are merely recommendations and are not binding."

In addition to the land expropriations carried out by the military government, there were at least a dozen instances during 1981 in which Israeli settlers seized land on their own initiative by force. In all cases, these were small parcels of cultivated land less than 100 dunams in area. However, such fields were usually the primary source of livelihood for the families from whom the land had been taken. These families have been subsequently prevented from entering onto their land by force, and in none of the cases did the military authorities intervene to protect the rights of the owners, despite requests for aid.

A further problem results from the exploitation of a part of the West Bank's and Gaza's limited water resources for the use of Israeli settlements. In 1981, BBC Television of Great Britain studied this problem in detail. Their research team was able to establish that of an annual average of some 53 million cubic meters of water available for irrigation in the West Bank, 27 million cubic meters is reserved for the Israeli settlements which had a population of 20,000 in mid-1981, while only 26 million was available to the 700,000 Arabs (see al-Fajr, August 23-30, 1981). This report, based upon Government of Israel Agricultural Department statistics, lends credence to Arab allegations that use of water by Israeli settlements has had detrimental effects upon their own agriculture. In addition, military government policy discourages the cultivation of new crops requiring irrigation by Arab farmers; for example, a long-standing military order in the Gaza Strip forbids the planning of any new citrus groves, even though citrus crops are the main agricultural produce in Gaza.

Education in the occupied territories encounters severe problems. Schools are not well maintained due to lack of adequate funds, facilities and equipment are of poor quality, books are insufficient, and classrooms are seriously over-crowded. There are insufficient teachers; their qualifications are low, they lack opportunities for improvement and their pay is very low in comparison to that of teachers in Israeli schools. Since 77 percent of the schools in the West Bank, and 40 percent in Gaza, are government schools, the military government is responsible for their support; consequently, Arabs in the occupied territories blame Israeli authorities for educational problems and what they allege has been a deterioration of standards since 1967.

During the first ten weeks of 1981, the 7,200 teachers of the West Bank were on strike in protest against their low pay, which averaged 14,000 IL/mo. (about \$200/mo.). In January, the military government ordered all teachers back to work to the classrooms without success. Several suspected leaders were arrested and later alleged that they had been tortured and beaten. The strike was settled in early March when the government promised to give an average 80 percent salary raise to the teachers. A number of secondary schools were the sites of sit-ins and other protest demonstrations during the spring and again in November. Several schools were forcibly closed for periods of several days to several weeks by the authorities.

There are five institutes of higher learning in the occupied territories. The two most important are Bir Zeit University in Ramallah and An-Najah University in Nablus. Both have been the scenes of major confrontations between Israeli security personnel on the one hand and students and faculty on the other. The universities have been closed on military orders on several occasions for varying periods of time during 1981. During the first part of November, all four colleges in the West Bank were forcibly closed, although three of them were allowed to resume classes by the end of the month.

Several prolonged closures were enforced upon Bir Zeit University in 1981, most recently in early November when the military government ordered the university closed for two months. The severe treatment of Bir Zeit has aroused considerable controversy among academic circles within Israel itself, and a number of Israeli faculty formed a Bir Zeit Solidarity Committee which has organized protests both in Israel and the West Bank against the military's educational policies. Faculty at Hebrew University formed a committee to investigate the situation of higher education in the occupied territories. Their report, issued during the summer of 1981, was critical of the military government's interference with academic institutions. Among its recommendations, the Hebrew University committee called for an end to military orders regulating academic affairs; urged the military to refrain from closing the college; and advocated the abolition of the "banned books list."

The Hebrew University Report was especially critical of Military Order 854. Promulgated in 1980, this order gave to the military government the power to dismiss university students, bar professors, and even to revoke university charters. The report "stressed that Order 854

allows for the infringement of academic freedom and we heard no convincing argument that this order is a successful solution to legal regulation of the universities. We therefore recommend revokation of the order."

Health care and services reportedly are inadequate in the occupied territories. Dr. Samir Katbeh, head of the West Bank Physician's Union, summed up the health situation in an interview with the Israeli paper, Al-Hamishmar, March 4, 1981:

"The number of beds in government hospitals has declined under occupation. Several hospital projects, started before 1967, were halted and the buildings transferred to the military. Doctors work 100-120 hours a week and earn half the salary of their Israeli counterparts. This has led to an increase in emigration of Palestinian doctors from the West Bank, and an increasing dependence on Israeli health care, and a general degradation of medical services."

In both the West Bank and Gaza, physicians allege that the military government continually harasses the medical profession by such acts as delaying or denying permits for the importation of drugs and equipment, withhold authorizations to construct new hospitals, and imposing arbitrary taxes. In November, the efforts of the military government to apply Israel taxes, especially the Value Added Tax, provoked a general strike in the Gaza Strip. According to Davar of December 2, 1981:

"Over five hundred physicians and pharmacists have been on strike since last Thursday (November 26) in the Gaza Strip. The strike has paralysed all the health services, and affects an area inhabited by half a million people. Yesterday, the soldiers...used force to open up a number of pharmacies in Gaza...The main reason for the strikes was the raids led by VAT inspectors on local pharmacies, and on the homes of physicians and pharmacists."

The strike lasted for three weeks during which time several doctors and pharmacists were arrested and/or fined. On December 17, the physicians announced an agreement had been reached with military authorities and that the strike would end.

A wide range of social services in the occupied territories are provided by international and non-governmental charitable groups. The organization with the largest presence is the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees which maintains the refugee camps in the West Bank and Gaza. Forty-seven percent of all schools in Gaza, and nine percent in the West Bank, are run by UNRWA. Relations between the military government and the international organizations have not been always cordial, and groups such as American Friends Service Committee and Catholic Relief Services have complained of being subjected to various forms of petty harassment. In December, the military government announced that it would not authorize the continuation of AFSC projects for 1982.

\* \* \*

3. Respect for Civil and Political Liberties, Including:

a. Freedom of Speech, Press, Religion, and Assembly

Freedom of religious expression is abridged in several ways in the occupied territories. In June, there were at least three separate incidents in which military authorities refused to allow memorial services according to religious rites on grounds that the families did not have proper permits for "demonstrations" (al-Fajr, June 14-20 and June 21-27, 1981). There were at least two incidents involving the military's refusal to hand over bodies to families so that they could be ritually cleansed and buried according to Muslim law. There were several incidents of soldiers harrassing worshipers en route to and/or leaving, churches and mosques. A severe example occurred in April when Israeli soldiers assaulted a number of people in El Bireh as they were proceeding to Easter Sunday Services in the town's Greek Orthodox church (al-Fajr, April 26-May 2, 1981).

The military government has not been careful about the protection of Muslim and Christian holy places, nor has it exerted efforts to assure access in full freedom to communicants. The most serious incidents have taken place at the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron, which Muslims revere as standing upon the burial site of some of their prophets. On several occasions, beginning in March, Israeli settlers have forced their way into the mosque during the time set aside for Muslim prayers on the Muslim sabbath of Friday; only on the first occasion were the intruders removed, and then after only an hour had passed. On June 15, settlers broke into the mosque, locked the gates to soldiers and Muslims, and spent the night inside. Subsequent invasions of the mosque have resulted in damage to a number of historic tiles (al-Fajr, March 16-22; March 22-28; June 14-20; and November 6-12, 1981).

The Al-Aqsa Mosque in East Jerusalem, which Muslims revere as one of their holiest sites and a place of pilgrimage, also has been invaded on several occasions by Jewish religious extremists. There is no evidence that the Israeli authorities have taken any action against them beyond requesting their removal. In the summer and fall of 1981, mosque officials discovered Israelis digging tunnels under, and thereby weakening, the foundations of Al-Aqsa. Efforts to put a halt to what pious Muslims believed to be a desecration of their shrine resulted in violence; eventually the tunnel was sealed. Muslim and Christian institutions both have been vandalized by unknown persons on several occasions in 1981.

The most serious example of official interference with religion was an incident in February 1981, involving the Greek Orthodox Church. According to the Jerusalem Post (February 17, 1981):

"The 14-member Holy Synod of the GOC in Israel Feb. 16 elected Greek-born Archbishop Theodoros from Amman as Patriarch of the church in Jerusalem...Before the elections, GO sources accused Israeli officials and Jerusalem Mayor...of meddling in internal church

affairs, and attempting to persuade archbishops to vote for the favored candidate of the Israeli authorities--Vasileos. These church sources said Israeli officials had gone so far as to threaten archbishops with expulsion."

Freedom of expression is severely restricted in the occupied territories. Arabs are forbidden to express any support for the Palestine Liberation Organization or to criticize the Israeli occupation. Some examples from the Israeli and East Jerusalem press illustrate the consequences for expressing one's self too freely:

"The Mayor of Ramallah was charged with making statements supportive of the PLO during a newspaper interview. He was released on IS 10,000 bail."

-- al-Fajr, August 9-15, 1981

"A West Bank worker was sentenced to 3 months in prison and fined IS 1500 for writing the letters 'P. L. O.' on a factory wall."

-- Ma'Ariv, December 4, 1981

"In El-Bireh last week the Society for the Preservation of the Family held a party to celebrate the construction of a new floor. The military governor suddenly arrived at the building and ordered everybody to disperse. Those present were shocked, as this was not a political meeting and therefore not banned by the military government...He also ordered the removal of the cake which had been baked for the celebration. Its 'crime' was that it was decorated with green, red, white and black icing, the colors of the Palestinian flag."

-- Al-Hamishmar, June 16, 1981

"Two Palestinians were charged with publishing 'inciting material' on account of an article they wrote which dealt with social and economic conditions in the Gaza Strip under military occupation."

-- al-Fajr, July 26-August 1, 1981

In addition to restrictions on expressions which the military government interprets as political statements, there is interference with artistic freedom in the form of book and film bans. Sellers of books which have been banned -- there is no list of such books made available to booksellers -- are subject to arrest and imprisonment, even though the books may have been obtained from Israeli distributors who are not subject to such bans. Possession of a banned book is considered cause for arrest. Even paintings are restricted, as in the example below:

"The military government in Ramallah closed 'Gallery 79' indefinitely and placed three West Bank painters under military order not to display their work in public."

-- Ha'Aretz, January 14, 1981

Freedom of assembly is virtually non-existent. Permits from the military authorities are required for all public meetings; no permits were granted in 1981. Nevertheless, demonstrations protesting actions and policies of the military government or illegal political rallies and gatherings were almost daily occurrences in 1981. In all instances they were forcibly suppressed by Israeli soldiers.

Commercial, school and work strikes are forbidden in the occupied territories. However, in 1981 three major strikes took place. The strike of government school teachers in the West Bank began in December 1980 and lasted until early March 1981. The physicians of the Gaza Strip were on strike for three weeks in September 1981. And there was a general strike among the Arabs of the Golan Heights following the announcement of Israeli annexation of the area in December. Despite numerous arrests of strike leaders and the use of force to try to break the strikes, all three strikes were partially successful and represented the first instances of organized mass opposition to the occupation. Following the negotiated settlement of the strikes, several suspected organizers have been harassed. This is especially true of teachers more than 20 of whom were fired during the summer without explanation. Local strikes, especially of shopkeepers, occurred throughout the year. These have been broken either by forcibly reopening shops or by sealing premises permanently shut.

The Arab press of East Jerusalem is subject to  censorship, and editorials judged to be anti-Israeli are frequently excised. The editors of the three Arabic language newspapers were restricted to their towns of residence for the entire year of 1981 which meant they were forbidden to go to their offices in East Jerusalem. The military authorities closed the newspaper, al-Fajr, for ten days in November, then again for one month within two days after the initial ban had expired. Throughout the year there were reports of official harassment efforts aimed at distributors of the newspapers, and on several occasions journalists were detained and interrogated. In August, al-Fajr carried a front-page article alleging that security officials were confiscating all incoming and outgoing mail of the newspaper (August 16-22, 1981).

Book censorship is routine. According to a report in Davar on March 29, 1981:

"A panel of Hebrew university professors investigating the status of academic freedom in the West Bank obtained a list of over 3,000 books banned from distribution in the West Bank by the Israeli military censor. The list included works by American, Arab, Israeli, and even classical writers such as Christopher Marlowe, Shakespeare, and Sophocles; biographies of Abraham Lincoln and Alexander the Great...All books entering the West Bank for sale or distribution, are automatically considered 'illegal,' and banned, unless formally approved by the censor."

Educational materials originating in Arab countries are screened and censored of anything deemed to be anti-Israeli or anti-Jewish in

content. Every publication within the occupied territories must be approved in advance by the military censor. For example:

"The Chairman of the Bank of Palestine in Gaza was detained and interrogated for publishing and distributing without permission a pamphlet. The booklet was the bank's Annual Report prepared for stockholders."

-- al-Fajr, May 10-16, 1981

Individuals frequently have been arrested on suspicion of holding private views which the military government deems inappropriate. For example:

"A 15 year-old girl from Tulkarem has been detained by security officials and accused, inter alia, of possessing a book of 'illegal' poetry--her own collection of poems."

-- January 4, 1981

"Military forces broke into a Palestinian poet's home in Ramallah, confiscated several 'illegal' books, and arrested two men for reading them."

-- al-Fajr, August 9-15, 1981

Membership in the PLO is automatic grounds for arrest in the occupied territories, as is expressing support for it.

\* \* \*

b. Freedom of Movement Within the Country, Foreign Travel, Emigration, and Repatriation

Freedom of movement for the Arabs of the occupied territories is restricted in several ways. All Arabs, 16-years and over, are required to carry special identity cards which are issued by the military government and which must be shown upon demand of Israeli officials. Checkpoints are set up at various locations throughout the occupied territories, primarily at entrances to towns and villages; all Arabs stopped at checkpoints are subject to personal body searches and interrogations. Typically an Arab can expect to be stopped several times each year; for students and workers and others who are outside their homes regularly, being stopped at checkpoints is very frequent.

About 80,000 Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza work in Israel. Such workers are required to have special registration cards from the Israeli Labor Office, and they must produce these cards on demand when stopped at the numerous checkpoints between Israel and the occupied territories. Workers are not allowed to stay overnight in Israel. All private and commercial vehicles owned by Arabs of the occupied territories have special license plates so that they may be readily identified at checkpoints and the daily transit of workers can be controlled.

Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza may apply for special travel documents to go to Jordan on visits. The military government

offers no explanation when it refuses to issue travel documents. Several thousands of Arabs who have been arrested since 1967 are routinely denied travel documents, and young men of high school and college age are usually refused as well. There were several instances in 1981 of entire towns being put under travel bans for varying periods. Upon returning from Jordan, residents of the occupied territories, as well as other Arabs or persons of Arab descent, are subject to searches for weapons and contraband. Arabs have complained that these searches are more rigorous than necessary on purely security grounds, and constitute harassment.

Travel to foreign countries (other than Jordan) is regulated similar to trips across the Jordan River. Several prominent Palestinians, notably members of the National Guidance Council in the West Bank, have been refused permission to travel to the United States and other countries during 1981. Also, many West Bankers who have been working in various foreign countries and had returned to visit their families for the summer were prevented from leaving the West Bank when they sought to cross the Jordan River bridges to return to their jobs.

A special restriction on movement used by the military government are the travel bans imposed on individuals. These might restrict a person to his/her own town of residence, or they might specify certain areas to which a person is forbidden to travel. Virtually all members of the National Guidance Council in the West Bank have been under travel bans for part of all of 1981; this includes the mayors of all the major towns, as well as other prominent persons. Travel bans are also imposed on students and workers with the effect of preventing them from attending classes or going to jobs. Collective travel bans have also been applied to entire villages and towns for temporary periods during 1981.

Repatriation of Arabs who fled from the occupied territories during the 1967 war has still not taken place. About 250,000 are estimated to be refugees from the West Bank and Gaza not repatriated when Israel allowed a limited return in 1968. In recent years, Israel has allowed an average of 1,500 of these to come back under family reunion considerations. Palestinians who left the West Bank and Gaza since 1967 in order to study or work abroad have alleged that Israel prevents their returning to live permanently. Israel does not discourage emigration from the occupied territories. Palestinians have charged that Israeli authorities are overly zealous in their cooperation to arrange for emigration.

\* \* \*

c. Freedom to Participate in the Political Process

Political freedom, as it is commonly understood in the United States, is non-existent in the occupied territories. The government of the occupied territories is a military one and all of the executive, administrative, and law-making positions are filled by Israelis. In 1968, Israel did permit a restricted electorate to vote for mayors and council members for the largest towns on the West Bank. These



officials have no substantive powers. Their main responsibility is to implement orders of the military government. Nevertheless, these mayors have emerged as the principal opponents of the occupation as they have sought to mitigate some of the harsh effects of punitive policies. The mayors of Nablus and Ramallah have become especially important as symbolic political leaders since being maimed in assassination attempts in 1980. Both men returned to the West Bank early in 1981 after undergoing months of rehabilitation treatment abroad. Travel bans restrict them to their own town. The treatment accorded the Nablus mayor, Bassam Shaqa, has been especially severe during the whole year, as is illustrated in the account below:

"The military government of Nablus is harassing, interrogating and threatening anyone who gives a lift to Bassam Shaqa. It also exerts a variety of pressures on anyone meeting with the mayor...The people drive him elsewhere are invariably questioned with the aim to pressure and frighten them...Councillor al-Heyk described how the Shaqa family had heard someone digging up the ground next to the mayor's burned-out car yesterday at 5 a.m. Council members dug up the soil outside the house again and found bundles of wiring. These were probably bugging devices. The day before, a military vehicle had been parked outside the Shaqa family's home all night. The soldiers had asked to see the identity papers of all those visiting and had written them down."

-- Ha'Aretz, March 25, 1981

During 1981, the military government sought to terminate the role of the mayors as possible political intermediaries between the occupation authorities and the Arab population of the territories. For example, in May the acting mayor of Hebron stated that he had received an implicit threat of deportation:

"(He) said that he had complained to the military governor of Hebron after three Arab families had been expelled from their homes in the town center and replaced by Jewish settlers...A few days later, he and the other councillors were called to the military governor, who told them that if the business strike and press conference they had called to protest against the expulsion of the Arab families went ahead, they would find themselves 'outside the town, and perhaps very far from it.'"

-- Ha'Aretz

In June, the military authorities went beyond the issuance of threats and promulgated a military order making it illegal for any mayor on the West Bank to send cables of protest to the military government -- or to foreign consuls.

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4. Government Attitude and Record Regarding International and Non-Governmental Investigation of Alleged Violations of Human Rights

Since 1976, Amnesty International and other groups repeatedly have requested an outside investigation of allegations of mistreatment of prisoners and security detainees. In September 1980, AI released a report which consists of a 1979 memorandum calling on Israel to permit an independent investigation of allegations of mistreatment, and Israel's reply. The report concluded that there exists sufficient prima facie evidence of ill-treatment of security suspects by interrogators to warrant establishing a public inquiry. AI says that Israel's own pre-trial administrative and legal procedures, which tend to isolate suspects, prevent Israel from conclusively refuting such allegations. Specifically AI expresses concern that too many cases are decided upon the basis of confessions given prior to the detainee's contact with counsel and family.

The government of Israel rejected the AI report and has refused to consider any public inquiry into its treatment of Arab prisoners in the occupied territories, a position it maintained up through the end of 1981.

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Palestine Human Rights Campaign. The report is based on the following sources: documents and reports issued by international agencies and organizations such as the International Commission of Jurists, Amnesty International, the United Nations Human Rights Commission; American Christian church-related agencies operating in Israel and the Occupied Territories; affidavits and reports submitted to our office by the Israeli League for Human and Civil Rights, and other Israeli and Arab civic and human rights groups and committees; and a survey of the daily Hebrew press in Israel and the Arab press in Jerusalem.

In documenting the violations of human rights of the Palestinians during 1981, this report follows the format used in the annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices. This makes possible a section by section comparison with the 1981 State Department Country Report on Israeli practices in the occupied territories.

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for the Palestine Human Rights Campaign,

Dr. James Zogby, Chairman  
Washington, DC

Rev. Donald Wagner, Director  
National Office, Chicago IL

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Founded in 1977, the Palestine Human Rights Campaign (PHRC) is a human rights movement of concerned individuals from a number of peace, church, civil rights, and Middle-East-related organizations.

Today the PHRC is a growing national coalition with over 3,000 participants, and chapters in 34 U.S. cities, Canada, and Australia.

National sponsors of the PHRC include:: former Senator James Abourezk; Prof. Noam Chomsky; Rev. Joseph Lowery, SCLC; Pete Seeger; Congressman John Conyers (D-MI); Congressman Walter Fauntroy (D-DC).

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