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Eye witness account from EAPPI

By Ecumenical Accompanier Elizabeth, who recently served in the Southern West Bank

Yehuda and Ido, former soldiers now working with “Breaking the Silence”, independently tell us that the orders given by the government to the army are to make its presence felt, to disrupt the daily lives of the Palestinians, to threaten them, and to ensure they live in fear. Ido adds, “we stopped them at the check points to ‘dry them out’” – an army euphemism for tying and blindfolding Palestinians before making them stand in the sun for up to eight hours – perhaps for not having the right permit, or for the way they looked at a soldier, or for no particular reason at all – simply because “we can.

[Read blog](#)

Expert Q&A: On the Current Crisis in Palestine/Israel

"Palestinians urgently need an international force to protect them, given that the Palestinian Authority is unable to do so, and Israel is unwilling. For nearly five decades, Palestinians - refugees and stateless - have lived under the wrath of the most powerful army in the region". Diana Buttu, Ramallah-based analyst, former advisor to Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and Palestinian negotiators, and Policy Advisor to Al-Shabaka: The Palestinian Policy Network.

[Read full Q & A in the Internation Middle East Media center](#)

New measures to crush Palestinian resistance

Israel announced drastic measures to crush Palestinian resistance, easing firearms laws for Israelis and stripping some east Jerusalem residents of their residency permits. Interior Minister Silvan Shalom announced he was revoking the residency status of Palestinians from the city who had taken part in attacks on Jews.

“Nineteen attackers from east Jerusalem — I think that is the number more or less — will have their residency canceled,” Shalom told public radio. “I have decided to revoke their residency. They are no longer residents of Israel and will not be able to receive all the privileges.” To protect Israelis, Internal Security Minister Gilad Erdan said that procedures for issuing gun permits were being revamped. “In light of the security situation I have decided to ease the conditions for granting a license to possess a firearm,” he wrote on Facebook.

Some 310,000 Palestinians live in east Jerusalem, which was usurped by Israel in the 1967 Six-Day War and annexed in a move never recognized internationally. The Jewish state granted them permanent residency status — a blue ID card giving them access to social benefits and health care. They do not have full citizenship, although they can apply if they meet certain conditions. The vast majority have not done so for political reasons.

Human Rights Watch said revoking their residence rights was “tantamount to deportation” and

forbidden under international humanitarian law. “East Jerusalem is occupied territory under international law,” the group’s Israel/Palestine director Srai Bashi told AFP. “Deportation is strictly prohibited.”

[Read full report in Arab News](#)

Abbas: We shall not remain hostage to agreements disregarded by Israel

President Mahmoud Abbas said Palestinians will uphold the political, national and legal struggle and will not remain hostage to agreements disregarded by Israel. “The Aggressive and growing Israeli attack against our people, land, and holy places undermine peace and stability. This attack threatens to ignite the fuse of a religious war, which will burn everything, not only in the region, perhaps even in the entire world.”

He urged immediate intervention from the international community before it is too late. He also asserted that “Palestinians will never agree to change the status quo in Al-Aqsa Mosque and will not agree to any Israeli plan, which aims to undermine the sacredness of and the site’s Islamic identity.”

Abbas underlined the importance of joining international treaties and organizations. The Palestinian Authority has prepared documentation on settlement activities, Gaza aggression, political prisoners and the recent arson attacks against the Dawabshe family and Mohammad Abu Khdeir. All of these are submitted to the International Criminal Court (ICC).

[Read full report in Wafa News](#)

Article

It's time to challenge the status quo in Palestine

Lamis Andoni, an analyst and commentator on Middle Eastern and Palestinian affairs, writing in Al Jazeera says: “The deafening silence in the international media as the toll of Palestinians injured and killed by the Israeli army is appalling. It seems there is an unwritten consensus that as long as Western governments, mainly the US, do not see a serious threat to "Israeli security" and to "Israeli Jewish lives", it is just another "cycle of violence" that can be suppressed, if not crushed by a well-equipped Israeli army”.

[Read Al Jazeera for full commentary](#)