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LETTER DATED 26 JULY 1948
FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ARAB HIGHER COMMITTEE
FOR PALESTINE TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ENCLOSING MEMORANDUM
ON "JEWISH ATROCITIES IN THE HOLY LAND"

July 26, 1948

I shall be very grateful if Your Excellency will circulate copies of the enclosed Memorandum, "Jewish Atrocities in the Holy Land," to members of the Security Council.

(signed) Isa Nakhleh
Representative of
The Arab Higher Commission
for Palestine

/JEWISH

JEWISH ATROCITIES

IN THE HOLY LAND

MEMORANDUM

TO

THE UNITED NATIONS DELEGATIONS

20 JULY

1948

/INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

In publishing this Paper on Jewish crimes and atrocities in Palestine, we do not intend to dwell upon the war in that country, nor do we intend to give any account of actions during military operations or battles between Arab and Jewish forces. These events are not the subject of our comment. What we wish to dwell upon in this memorandum is crimes committed by Jews against the Arab civilian population. We intend to expose the malicious, barbaric and inhuman methods of extermination resorted to by the Jews of Palestine in violation of the accepted rules of civilized or chivalrous warfare.

When the Fascists and Nazis persecuted the Jews of Europe, Jews everywhere saw to it that the civilized world learned all the details of those atrocities through their powerful and world-wide propaganda machine. Paradoxically, nonetheless, the Jews of Eastern Europe who suffered so much at the hands of their persecutors have been good pupils. They have now established for themselves a record for savagery in Palestine.

According to a very reliable British source, an official of the Jewish Agency as long ago as February 1948, explained to a British friend the methods which the Zionists would adopt in Palestine. They would commence their campaign with two or three massacres. "When we massacre," this Zionist said, "we shall not only kill the men; we shall massacre the women and children and then their cows, sheep and oxen."

This cold-blooded and well-calculated Zionist plan for the massacre of populations is not new for the Jews. It is a renewal of the technique adopted by them when they first entered Palestine about the year 1400 B. C. "And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city (Jericho), both man and woman, young and old, and ox, and sheep, and ass, with the edge of the sword." (Joshua 6:21)

The facts enumerated in this memorandum must shock every decent person in the world. They are all authentic and cannot be challenged by the Zionists, who do not intend to fight either honourably or chivalrously. They have not conducted their military operations according to the accepted rules of civilized warfare. In occupying some Arab cities, quarters or villages the Jews have committed the most heinous crimes against innocent civilians. Jewish atrocities in the Holy Land can be classified under the following categories:

Massacres, Indiscriminate Killing and Savage Acts

Jews indiscriminately massacred civilians, old men, women and children of all ages.

Jews bayoneted pregnant women.

Jews cut children to pieces before their mothers' eyes, then killed the mothers.

Jews threw infants into cisterns filled with water, after snatching them from their mothers' breasts.

Jews shot and killed nurses.

Jews in Haifa killed, mutilated and crucified Arab prisoners and wounded.

Maltreatment and Humiliation of Prisoners

The Jews treated prisoners, and all the Arab civilian population which was unable to leave Jaffa, Haifa, Safad, Acre or Jerusalem in a most barbaric and Nazi-like fashion.

Jews forced these civilians to dig trenches and do the dirtiest work for their captors.

In Jerusalem Jews forced old men and women, doctors and notables, to carry water on their backs in big tins from Arab cisterns to the Jewish quarters.

Jews forced many elderly women of the most respected families of Jerusalem to work as servants, performing the most degrading tasks.

Jews evicted Arabs from their homes and forced them to live in the most unhygienic and unsanitary places.

Jews gave Arab civilians, as a form of revenge, a minimum amount of food and drink, barely sufficient to sustain life.

Jewish doctors forced Arab men in Haifa and Haifa to submit to giving blood for Jewish wounded and left these Arabs in the most horrible condition, dangerously sick and exposed to death.

Indecent Acts Against Women and Girls

In the village of Deir Yasin, Jews took women and young girls, stripped off all their clothes, put them into trucks and after parading them in the Jewish quarters, photographed them in that condition.

Jews in Haifa entered Arab homes, stripped women of all their clothes, raped them and forced them to flee naked from their homes into the streets.

Jews raped Christian and Moslem young women and very young girls.

/Looting

Looting of Property

Jews looted Arab property in Jaffa, Haifa, Safad, Tiberias and Jerusalem.

Jews broke into homes and offices and looted all the furniture and destroyed what they could not carry away.

Jews looted, destroyed or burned books.

Jews looted all merchandise inventories in Arab shops and warehouses.

Jews looted Arab cars, trucks and vehicles.

Jews looted medical supplies and bandages from stores, the property of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent.

On 6 June 1948 the Jewish Agency, with the most daring brigandry, announced that it would usurp and appropriate all Arab holdings and property wherever the Jews could reach them. Arab homes and buildings are now occupied by Jews. Arab property thus looted included vehicles of all types, telephones, typewriters, hospital furniture and beds, kitchen utensils, reserve food stocks and pharmaceutical supplies.

Destruction of Property

Jews in Haifa, Jaffa, Safad and Tiberias marked most of the modern Arab buildings in these cities for destruction and then proceeded to demolish them, not in battle but in calculated revenge and in retaliation for the losses suffered by Jews in battles and as a result of actual fighting.

Jews destroyed hospitals and clinics in Haifa.

Destruction and Desecration of Holy Places

Jews in Haifa defiled Christian and Moslem Holy Places by urinating on the altars and dragging women to the Sacred Places and raping them there.

Jews in Jerusalem occupied Christian Holy Places and shrines and used them as forts, arsenals and military bases. Upon their retreat they either damaged or burned these Sacred Places. By indiscriminate shelling they damaged fourteen churches, institutions and shrines in the Old City of Jerusalem.

Use of Dum-Dum Bullets and Bacteriological Warfare

According to reliable reports from accredited doctors, among Arab patients treated by them were ones struck by dum-dum bullets.

/According

According to confessions obtained from the perpetrators, Jews sent four men with bottles containing typhoid and dysentery germs to infect the artesian wells around Gaza. The offenders were arrested with bottles in their possession and confessed their guilt.

MASSACRES, INDISCRIMINATE KILLING AND SAVAGE ACTS

The massacres of Arab old men, women and children by Jews was a well-calculated and cold-blooded plan. It was intended to terrorize the Arab civilian population and cause an Arab exodus from Palestine. As a result of these massacres, about 300,000 Arabs have left their homes, towns and villages and have taken refuge in neighbouring Arab countries. The following are only a few of these barbarous massacres: 10 April 1948 - Massacre of Deir Yasin Village - Jerusalem

Deir Yasin, a village of about 600 inhabitants, is a suburb of Jerusalem surrounded by Jewish settlements. On 10 April 1948, it was attacked by 500 Jews, who rounded up most of the inhabitants and looted all valuables they could find. Then they started massacring men, women and children, bayoneting pregnant women, cutting children to pieces before their mothers' eyes, then killing the mothers. Jews killed about 250 Arabs. Among these were twenty-five pregnant women, fifty-two mothers with sucklings, some of whom were only a few months old, and about sixty other women and girls. Jews dumped over 150 bodies into a cistern in order to hide the horrors and mutilation committed by them. They took from the same village a group of Arab women and girls, stripped them of all clothes, put them into trucks, paraded them in the Jewish quarters of Jerusalem, and photographed them naked. As the details of these horrors became known, even Jewish civilians in Jerusalem were shocked.

Jewish forces barred entrance to all outsiders so that no one would see their horrible acts. M. Jacques de Regnier, delegate of the International Red Cross, asked permission of the Jewish Agency to go to the scene of the massacre, but they refused to allow him to go until the next day, so that they might clear the mess. M. de Regnier told The Arab Higher Committee in Jerusalem that "the situation was simply horrible." He related how the bodies were thrown into a cistern, so that he could not see them, but that other bodies were lying around, and many houses were destroyed. He related that he found an Arab girl of six still living under a pile of bodies, and that he took her to a hospital.

The Jewish Agency, with its usual hypocrisy and with the intention of throwing dust in the eyes of the world, issued a statement /expressing

expressing "its horror and disgust at the barbarous manner in which this action was carried out!" But two days later, the Jewish daily newspaper "Hamasnkif," mouthpiece of the Jewish terrorist gangs, lifted the curtain to reveal the true facts, stating that the Irgunists had declared that the Haganah was aware beforehand of the Irgunists' plan drawn up for Deir Yasin and that the Haganah commander had been made acquainted by the commander of the operations with these plans.

14 April 1948 - Massacre of Nasr El Din Village - Tiberias

A large group of Irgunists and Sternists attacked the village of Nasr El Din in the Tiberias district, only to repeat the blood-thirsty massacre that had been committed by the same Zionist gangsters at Deir Yasin. In the early hours of the morning, while the villagers were peacefully asleep in their homes, the Zionist gangs dashed into the village, attacking with hand grenades and machine-gun fire defenseless women and children. The majority of the families in the village was made up of women and children who could not, by any stretch of mind, be considered as capable of carrying arms to defend themselves. In spite of that, the Zionist murderers subjected them to heavy fire. Only forty women and children managed to escape and take refuge in a nearby village.

5 May 1948 - Massacre of Beit Elkhouri Villagers

A large group of Haganah terrorists attacked Arab villages located on the banks of the Jordan River near a place known as Beit El Khouri. The terrorists fired their automatic guns at the defenseless and terrified villagers. Tens of villagers were killed in cold blood and hundreds were seriously wounded. This was not all. In their Nazi manner Haganah gangsters killed women and children, disfiguring them in the most repulsive and sickening manner. Then the blood-thirsty murderers beheaded some of the old and infirm persons and amputated their hands and legs. They took the young men of the village, packed them into a house, poured gasoline on it and set it on fire. The remaining old persons were driven to the scene of the crematory and were told to go to their brethren in the Arab world and tell them what they had seen, and see if they dare come to their aid. Some of the villagers who escaped the Zionist terrors managed to swim across the river to the Syrian frontier.

6 May 1948 - Massacre of Civilians and Refugees

Jewish forces made an offensive on Arab villages in the vicinity of Tiberias. They blew up the German monastery located on the shore of Lake Tiberias, with three monks residing in it. At the same time Jewish

forces attacked the defenseless Arab civilian population of Elghaweer and Samakh. A Jewish scouting plan directed Eaganah to the position where Arab refugees were concentrated. The latter then attacked these civilian refugees, inflicting heavy casualties on those trying to escape by boat; many others were drowned when their boats capsized.

6. May 1948 - Mosque Packed with Women and Children Blown Up

In El-Zaytoun village (Safad district) Jews packed women, children and old people into the village mosque and blew it up on the heads of those innocent victims.

7 May 1948 - Villagers Slain

Zionist patrols armed with automatics forced three of the villagers of Al-Kabry - Mohammed Mattar, Nimmer Abed El Rahman Al Akbar, Maklab Abi Aziz, into the hut of Ali Mohammed El-Kadi, aged seventy, and slaughtered each of them like sheep across the knee of the old man.

13 May 1948 - Massacre of Beit Darras Village

In their attack on Beit Darras village situated in the Gaza district, the Zionist murderers found only children, women, elderly and infirm persons. Immediately they started killing all of them, butchering the women, some of whom were pregnant. The Zionist butchers indulged in disfiguring the bodies of the elderly men. After looting all the household furniture and the provisions left in the village, Zionist terrorists embarked on a systematic plan of blasting the largest houses by shell fire and mines.

JEW'S RESCET TO BACTERIOLOGICAL WARFARE

The present population of Jews in Palestine come mainly from Eastern Europe. A great many of them are irreligious, godless and ruthless Communists. They conspire and carry on their aggression in a hateful, fanatic and vengeful manner. These Jews recognize no code of ethics and honour, nor international convention. They wish to realize their immoral and illegal aggression at any cost to their opponents.

For several years the Zionists have planned and prepared for the use of bacteriological warfare. To that end they set up laboratories in Palestine. The Jews plan to use this inhuman weapon against the Arabs in the Middle East in their war of extermination. When cholera broke out in Egypt in November 1947, and in Syrian villages on the Palestine-Syria borders about February 1948, there was some, but not conclusive evidence that Zionists were responsible for the outbreak of this plague.

On 12 January 1948 Leon Pearson reported from Paris via N.B.C., New York, that "the Jewish underground is preparing to launch bacteriological warfare against the Arabs." This fact was also confirmed by a Christian
/American

American citizen who had attended a dinner in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in February 1948, given by the Zionist Revisionist Organization under the chairmanship of Professor Heller, in honour of a visiting guest introduced as Captain Zvi Kolitz from Palestine and as an officer of the Irgun Zvai Leumi. Captain Kolitz has been featured recently as a guest speaker in meetings in New York sponsored by Irgun groups. At the end of his speech Captain Kolitz said, "I know for sure that we are going to employ bacteriological warfare when the British pull out. We have no allies, and cholera is no doubt a good ally. We shall bring cholera microbes to Cairo, to Baghdad, to Damascus and to Amman, and in view of the hygienic conditions in the Arab states this weapon may be of decisive importance." Captain Kolitz further asserted that Jewish scientists are already preparing bacteriological bombs and that hundreds of cholera-stricken mice are being kept for experiments in special laboratories in Palestine.

Further conclusive evidence of bacteriological warfare by the Jews was afforded by the capture of four Zionists by the Egyptian Army, two on 26 and two on 28 of May 1948. They were caught while infecting artesian wells around Gaza with these disease-producing germs. These atrocities are revealed in a communique issued by the Egyptian Ministry of Defense on 29 May 1948, which states:

"The Egyptian forces captured two Zionists while attempting to infect artesian wells around Gaza with poisonous germs. Both have admitted the purpose of their mission. Several bottles were found in their possession containing a liquid which was discovered to contain the germs of dysentery and typhoid. Two other men were also arrested while standing near another well. One of them admitted being a Zionist, while the other refused to reveal his identity. They had in their possession another canteen containing a liquid with a high concentration of typhoid and dysentery germs. The Egyptian Command took immediate and precautionary steps to protect the health of the Egyptian forces and the people living in the neighbourhood by inspecting all the wells in the area. Egyptian chemists were brought over to test samples of the various wells. In the meanwhile all the water for the army was brought from El-Arish and Rafah. The results of the tests have shown that the water of the various wells is still fit for drinking with the exception of the two where the Zionist spies were found loitering. Orders were given to close both immediately."

The Egyptian Government released the text of an admission to the Egyptian Army authorities by one of the men arrested. The following is an accurate translation of the confession, the original of which is in Hebrew:

"I, Izra G. Odeen, from the town of Tel Aviv, was ordered by the commander Moshe who gave me a canteen full of typhus and dysentery germs to pour it in a well containing water." These facts were reported by the Egyptian Foreign Minister to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in a cable dated 27 May 1948, which reads as follows:

"I have the honour to bring the following text to your notice: On 26 May the Egyptian Authorities arrested two Zionist agents at Gaza who admitted that they had been instructed by the Commander of the Jewish colony of Dehrot to contaminate the springs from which the Egyptian troops at Gaza draw their water supply, and that they had actually dropped typhoid and dysentery germs into the wells lying to the east of that town. The Egyptian authorities possess the written admission of their acts and will immediately communicate it to the International Red Cross. These facts only confirm once again that the armies of the Arab States are not fighting regular forces in Palestine whose conduct conforms to the law of nations, but terrorist bands respecting neither law nor religion. In exposing these facts before the conscience of the civilized world the Royal Government of Egypt is convinced that the governments signatories to the Geneva Protocol of 17 June 1925, concerning the prohibition of the use of asphyxiating, poison and similar gases and bacteriological methods in warfare will joint it in condemning methods which constitute a violation of a prohibition universally recognized as part and parcel of international law and a criminal infringement of the moral code of peoples and of international usage.

(Signed) MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE KINGDOM OF EGYPT"

DESECRATION AND DESTRUCTION OF HOLY PLACES

"It appears clearly that the condition of the Christians in the Holy Land has not been bettered, but worsened. The Christian name has been degraded for the benefit of the Jews. We see with sorrow the Christian Holy Places being secularized and transformed into houses of worldly pleasure, inviting men to bodily voluptuousness which, condemnable everywhere, are especially condemnable on the spots where rise the august monuments of our religion."

When Pope Benedict XV made the above statement on 13 June 1921, little did the Christian world realize the full implication of His Holiness' condemnation. His Holiness' words were prophetic.

In 1920 the Anglican Bishop of Jerusalem gave the world a similar warning when he exposed the malicious intentions of the Zionists. In an address to the Church House, London, the Bishop stated:

"In ordinary conversation among Zionists at Jerusalem it had been asked, 'What shall be done with the Church of the Holy Sepulchre? Shall it be burned or razed to the ground?'"*

Since hostilities started in Palestine in November 1947, the Zionists have deliberately desecrated, damaged and destroyed many of the sacred Christian and Moslem Holy Places, shrines and institutions.

The commission of these sacrilegious crimes by the Zionists was confirmed in a manifesto issued by the Union of Christian Churches in Palestine, as stated in an Associated Press cable published in The New York Times of 1 June 1948. The Union of Christian Churches consists of the following:

- Orthodox Patriarchate
- Latin Patriarchate
- Armenian Orthodox Patriarchate
- Custodian de Terra Sancta
- Coptic Patriarchate
- Vicar of the Melkite (Catholic) Patriarchate
- Metropolitan of the Syriac Orthodox Community
- Vicar of the Armenian Catholic Patriarchate
- Arab Evangelical Episcopal Community
- Vicar of the Syriac Catholic Patriarchate
- Arab Lutheran Community in Palestine

This reliable and impartial body, representing all Christian churches and denominations in Palestine, complained that the Jewish forces had used ten Christian religious and humanitarian institutions in Jerusalem as military bases and that fourteen institutions in the Holy City were destroyed or damaged by shell-fire. Three priests were killed, two wounded and more than 100 women and children and other non-combatants have become casualties inside Jerusalem since the Jews began the attack. The manifesto avers:

* See Parliamentary Debates, House of Lords, 29 June 1920, Hansard Vol. 40, No. 52.

"We can state that the largest part of the shells falling on the Holy Sepulchre and on churches, convents and Christian institutions (as listed by the committee) are of Jewish origin.... The manifesto continued:

"We declare it the truth, and an objective fact, when we add: The Arabs have stated they respected the holy places, the churches, the convents and the Red Cross institutions. In fact they have respected them up to the present time."

The statement, addressed to religious and political authorities throughout the world, added:

"From what has taken place it appears:

- "I. That it was the Jews who began on the morning of Saturday, May 15, to occupy by armed force the Convent of Notre Dame de France, the Redemptionist Sisters and the French Hospital, which they fortified and from which they began to fire on the Holy City.
- "II. That they occupied likewise, on Mount Zion, the Monastery of the German Benedictine Fathers and two convents of the Holy Trinity and Saint George, belonging to the Greek Orthodox Church, which served for military operations and from which they fired on the City of Jerusalem. They occupy today buildings which fly flags of the Holy See, of France, of the Holy Sepulchre and of the International Red Cross."

The manifesto included the following list of institutions "from which Jews directed their fire on the Holy City:"

- "1. The Orthodox Greek Convent of St. George, as well as part of the Armenian Orthodox Convent, occupied by Jews May 14.
- "2. The Convent of Notre Dame de France, occupied May 15, fortified and made a principal base of attack on the Holy City.
- "3. The Convent of the Redemptionist Sisters, occupied May 15 and employed in the same manner as Notre Dame.
- "4. The French Hospital, which the Jews occupied militarily in spite of the presence of the Sisters of St. Joseph and their patients and regardless of the Red Cross flag flying from its staff.

/"5. The

- "5. The Italian Hospital, which the International Red Cross placed under its protection May 15. A force of armed Jews occupied the hospital, took down the Red Cross flag and raised their own flag in spite of protests of the Italian Consul. They used terraces as gun emplacements.
- "6. The apostolic delegation building, protected by the flag of the Holy See.
- "7. The Monastery of the German Benedictine Fathers, occupied May 18 and used by Jews as a strategic position and one of their principal bases for firing against the Holy City.
- "8. The English School of Mount Zion and the Greek Orthodox Convent of St. John, occupied May 15.

"The manifesto charged that some Israeli fighters fired shells from the Hebrew University and Hadassah Hospital on Mount Scopus and also from two large synagogues in the Old City, which Arab forces eventually demolished.

"It said that the following institutions had been hit by shell-fire and that these seized by Jews had been shelled subsequently by Arab forces:

- "1. The Convent of Notre Dame, a large part of which was destroyed following the occupation by Jews.
- "2. The Redemptionist Convent, which Jews destroyed and partly burned.
- "3. The German Benedictine Monastery, of which the tower and church had been damaged following the Jewish occupation.
- "4. The Seminary of St. Anne (inside Arab lines of the Old City), which received two shells, one May 17 and the second May 19, destroying walls and wounding refugees.
- "5. The Church of Sts. Constantine and Helena, near the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, which were damaged by a shell, the blast striking the dome of the Holy Sepulchre, May 17.
- "6. The court of the Orthodox Syrian Church of St. Mark, which received a shell May 16 that killed Father Pierre Somi, secretary to the Bishop, and wounded two persons.

/"7. The

- "7. The Orthodox Greek Convent of St. George, next to the Greek Catholic Cathedral, which May 18 received a shell which broke the convent roof tiles and damaged windows of the cathedral.
- "(Point 8 was missing in transmission.)"
- "9. The Convent of the Archangel of the Orthodox Copts, located over the Grotto of the Holy Cross, which is part of the Holy Sepulchre. It was struck by a shell and damaged May 23.
- "10. The Convent of the Orthodox Copts received a shell May 24 which wounded some refugees.
- "11. The large Monastery of the Franciscan Fathers, situated near the Holy Sepulchre, was hit by shells May 19, 23 and 24. The orphanage, convent court and general secretariat were damaged. Many children were killed or wounded.
- "12. The Latin patriarchate received shells May 23, 26, 27 and 28. The environs were damaged and many were wounded.
- "13. The Greek Catholic patriarchate received shells at its entrance May 16 and 29. Buildings were damaged and people were wounded.
- "14. The Orthodox Armenian Convent was hit by over 100 shells fired by Jews from the Benedictine Monastery on Mount Zion. Eight of the refugees in the convent were killed and about 120 wounded."

DAMAGE TO JEWISH HOLY PLACES: A CONTRAST

On 13 July 1948 the Acting United States representative at the Security Council transmitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations a cable dated 12 July, sent by the Chairman of the Palestine Truce Commission. This cable is very significant because it reveals the evil intentions of the Jews towards the Christian and Moslem Holy Places and that they are preparing for a major assault for mass destruction of the Old Holy City of Jerusalem. The cable follows:

"We observe that in Jerusalem Jews appear to be increasingly inclined to ignore the most elementary rules of international war. Following their attempt to seize King David Hotel Thursday night during the cease-fire period, some of their forces tried last night to occupy the Pontifical and

/Biblical

Biblical Institution property of the Holy See. Only due to last minute intervention by the French Consul General were they compelled to give up their design.

"Stressing that the Christian world seemed to be almost indifferent to shelling Jerusalem by the Arab Legion before the truce, Jews boast that it would not take them more than a fortnight to conquer the whole city, nine-tenths of which they hold already. If they don't claim Jerusalem yet as the Capital City of their state, it will no doubt be an essential instrument for bargaining during peace negotiations."

Further proof of Jewish malice against Christian sanctuaries is offered in an Associated Press cable from Jerusalem, dated 16 July 1948, published in the American press, which said:

"Franciscan monks reported today that a mortar shell landed near the doorway of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre on Wednesday night, breaking the old stained glass windows of the Franks Chapel.

"Shells also were reported to have struck near the Virgin's tomb adjacent to the Garden of Gethsemane, and in the vicinity of the Dominus Flevit Chapel, which marks the traditional site of the Mount of Olives where Jesus wept for Jerusalem."

On 18 July the delegation of the Arab Higher Committee received the following cable from the Arab Higher Committee Headquarters in Cairo:

"Jews strongly shelled the Moslem and Christian Holy Places in Jerusalem. The Western Gate of the Dome of the Rock was seriously damaged. A six-inch bomb exploded inside demolishing the monumental windows in and around the Dome. The dome itself was strongly hit. A six-inch fire bomb exploded inside Al-Aqsa - fortunately no damage. Forty bombs exploded in the Haram area, three others in the Holy Sepulchre square causing damages. St. James Church in the vicinity was damaged heavily. Other mosques were also damaged."

Jews claimed that Arabs damaged Jewish synagogues in the Old City of Jerusalem. It is true that two synagogues in the Old City were destroyed. But this was done in actual battle after Jews made of these synagogues arsenals and fortresses from which they fought Arab forces. If Jews have no respect even for the sanctity of their own Holy Places and desecrate them by using them as military bases, they cannot complain of their destruction in battle.

/This is

This is quite different from their outrageous attacks on the Christian and Moslem Holy Places which they deliberately desecrated.

ACTS OF MURDER, TORTURE, MALTREATMENT AND FORCED LABOUR
AGAINST ARAB CIVILIAN PRISONERS AND HOSTAGES

The following are a few of many incidents of murder, torture, mutilation, etc., showing Jewish brutality in Palestine:

On the afternoon of Sunday, 18 April 1948, bodies of eight Arab young men were discovered on Mount Carmel, halfway between Akhouzad, Jewish settlement, and Kubaibeh. They were taken to the Government Hospital at Haifa. The bodies of these victims were found disfigured and mutilated beyond recognition. The hands and legs of some were amputated, and their heads battered with heavy stones. Investigation showed that the victims were labourers working for a steel company, who were kidnapped by Jews while walking along the harbour road in Haifa.

Two days later, i.e. on 20 April 1948, thirteen other bodies of young Arab men were found with their noses cut off, their eyes plucked out, and some beheaded.

In Haifa an Iraqi prisoner was found crucified, tied with ropes, and his body branded with hot irons.

When Safad fell into Jewish hands, most Arabs who stayed behind were either too old to undergo the strenuous journey, or infirm men and women and children. The Jews treated them with extreme barbarity. When over one hundred expressed the wish to leave the town, they were herded into trucks and taken to the Lebanese border and left in a remote place under the heavy rain. They had to walk more than two and a half hours on muddy and rugged roads until they came to the nearest Arab village. Among these people was a ninety-three-year-old and highly respected notable, Mohammed Salim Shamma, who was Mayor of Safad for many years during the Turkish and British regimes. He testified to the details of these brutalities, and related how he and his aged wife and others were insulted and beaten by Jews, who robbed him of his pocket watch, his gold rings and those of his wife.

Jews exceeded the limits of their audacity by putting civilian men and women to forced labour. In Acre and its neighbourhood, Arab civilians were forced at bayonet point to work as slaves from morn to eve, digging trenches and building defense lines of fortifications extending from the Acre railway station to the end of the Acre-Beirut road,

The suffering of the civilian inhabitants of Jaffa was described in a cable dated 19 June 1948, sent by the Mayor of Jaffa to the President

/of the Security

of the Security Council, which states:

"Zionists controlling the Arab open city of Jaffa plunder all contents. They have not supplied food to the five thousand remaining inhabitants contrary to the terms. They imposed forced labour even on women. They forced prisoners at Umm Khaled to dig trenches, exposing them to shooting. They shot at women reapers near Tulkarm preventing harvesting. We put this on record and await immediate action."

Furthermore, some of the Arab notables in Jaffa are being humiliated in the most unprecedented manner. Nicola Saba, a Christian Arab and a high government officer, was taken as a hostage together with Harbi El-Ayubi, a Moslem Arab notable, and are being worked as sweepers on the Jaffa-Tel Aviv road.

The Jerusalem Jews have taken and kept a great number of Arab hostages including women and children - most of them Christian Arabs of the best families. Jews have forced some of them to do the most degrading work. Among these were: Dr. Ibrahim George, a Christian, the most famous dentist in Jerusalem; Mrs. Shukri Deeb, a Christian lady of standing among Arab women and in national circles; Mr. Aziz Saba, a well-known Christian importer; Iskendar Saba, a Christian. These and their wives are all hostages, being put to work daily carrying water on their backs from the Arab quarters to the Jewish quarters in Jerusalem. Dr. Wadi Itayen, a Christian and a high-grade officer in the Department of Health in Jerusalem, was also forced to carry water on his back. He was overworked and maltreated, and as a result died.

MALICIOUS DESTRUCTION OF ARAB PROPERTY

In discussing destruction of property we do not mean damage done in actual fighting, due to shelling or bombardment. This is something to be expected in every war. What we mean in this connection is malicious destruction of Arab property in towns and villages after their occupation by the Jews, as a part of a cold, economic warfare, with a view to destroying Arab wealth and utterly demolishing many Arab cities and villages.

This wilful ruin of property was carried out by Jews in Arab Jaffa, Haifa, Safad and Tiberias. These crimes were at their worst in Jaffa. After its Arab inhabitants deserted that town, Jews of Tel Aviv marked out the biggest and most modern buildings, including dwellings, business houses, cinemas and other institutions, and razed them to the ground.

/On 17 April

On 17 April Jews attacked the village of Biyar Addas, which a long time before had been evacuated by its inhabitants, realizing that they were exposed to imminent Jewish danger. In spite of this, all the houses and the mosque itself were blasted. Jews also destroyed all artesian wells and irrigation installations in the village orange groves, thus making it impossible to irrigate the land.

On the same day Jews attacked the village of Mansoura, of the Ramleh sub-district. As Jews found the village deserted by its inhabitants, they dynamited and wrecked every house in the village. This was followed by levelling of the foundation of houses and village plantations with bulldozers.

On 7 May 1948, Jews attacked the village of Alkabri. All its civilian population that were caught were massacred. Jews demolished in that village 260 out of its 300 houses.

CHIVALROUS ARAB POLICY: A CONTRAST

On 30 March 1948, the Chairman of the Arab Higher Committee for Palestine issued a statement in which he declared the Arab policy in the face of Jewish atrocities:

"Foreseeing the outbursts and uprisings which would result from the recommendation of the General Assembly to partition our country, and in the face of the most outrageous provocations committed by Jews against Arabs, the Arab Higher Committee on two occasions issued proclamations to the Arabs of Palestine urging them to exercise every possible care in the defense and protection of all foreign consulates - their buildings and staffs - against all acts of aggression, and that all diplomatic representatives should be treated with the greatest respect and consideration in accordance with their diplomatic immunities. They were also urged not to molest neutral, peace-abiding foreign residents, but to afford them protection, to refrain, as they were wont to do, from all acts of violence against hospitals and other medical and health institutions, and from showing any sign of hostility to their doctors, nurses, or other members of their staffs, and never to interfere with the free movement of Red Cross and Red Star ambulances or those of any other medical institution or benevolent association. They were reminded of their inherited traditions not to harm or attack defenseless women or children; to afford all protection to women and children, the aged and the sick, and that they shall not attack the homes and dwellings of peaceful citizens,

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but to restrict their operations to repelling the unprovoked aggression of the Zionist invaders. It is also urged on all Arabs fighting for the liberation of their homeland to refrain from killing Jewish captives or wounded men or women; and to give them all human care and aid in accordance with the accepted international conventions.....

"In spite of Jewish outrageous provocations, we Arabs of Palestine declare that, in accordance with our traditions, we shall exercise every effort to keep our noble struggle on a higher plane. Therefore, I exhort the noble Arab people to maintain their self-control and restraint, and not to descend to the abysmal depths of degradation into which the Zionists have sunk, but to uphold the glorious Arabs ideals and their heritage of chivalry."

On 14 May the Political Committee of the Arab League issued a communique stating:

"The Jews in Palestine have committed the most horrible crimes. They have violated war conventions and the internationally accepted customs in the conduct of military operations, and have disregarded the elementary principles of honour and humanity." "On the other hand," the statement continued, "the Arabs in their struggle against the Jews followed their old customs, proving their real desire to maintain their traditional chivalry and respect for the laws of war.... In spite of these horrible atrocities of the Jews, the Political Committee calls upon all Arabs to maintain their traditions and not retaliate with savage acts."

The following are only a few of many incidents showing the chivalrous Arab attitude in contrast to Jewish atrocities:

When Fawzi Pasha Kawukji, commander of the Arab Liberation Army, attacked Mishmar Haamick, Jews asked for a short truce in order to remove women, children and old men. The Arab commander consented, and several trucks left the settlement loaded with women and children and old people.

When the Arab Legion conquered Kfar Tzion settlements, they captured many prisoners, among whom there were fifty women terrorists. His Majesty King Abdullah ordered that these women should be released through the Red Cross saying: "We shall avenge Deir Yasin massacre not against Jewish women, but against Jewish men."

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When the Arab Legion occupied Kalieh, a Jewish settlement on the Dead Sea, a Bedouin Arab was caught taking cattle owned by Jews. He was immediately arrested, tried and imprisoned.

Whenever Jewish wounded fall prisoners in Arab hands, they are immediately taken to Arab hospitals where they are treated and attended by Arab doctors and nurses. There are at present hundreds of Jewish wounded in Arab hospitals. On the other hand, not a single Arab wounded is in Jewish hospitals. Whenever an Arab falls into Jewish hands, he is immediately killed and disposed of.

When the Arab armies entered Palestine they behaved towards the civilian Jewish population in the most honourable and humane manner. They protected Jewish-owned buildings, installations and properties. The Arab Legion, for example, forbade all persons to loiter around the installations and property of the Jewish-controlled and owned Potash Company on the Dead Sea.

The occupation of the Jewish quarter in the Old City of Jerusalem will remain an example of the honourable behaviour of the Arab forces. About 300 Jewish combatants and about 1,500 old men, women and children surrendered there. The men were taken to a prisoner-of-war camp and the women and children were turned over on the spot to the Red Cross authorities and the United Nations representatives for safe conduct to the Jewish community in Jerusalem. Not a single Jew was harmed after this surrender. Arab soldiers carried the wounded Jews - old men, women and children - and removed them to places from which they could be transferred to the Red Cross authorities.

An Associated Press cable, published on 29 May states:

"The Arabs went quickly about the task of removing the Jews from the Old City today. More than 1,500 civilians, women, children and old men, left the walled area."

The cable continued:

"Legionnaires helped more than 150 Israeli wounded to the safety of an Armenian Quarter school from the Jewish military hospital."

A Swiss official of the International Red Cross commended the conduct of King Abdullah's soldiers, saying:

"They carried old women in their arms to the Zion Gate."

Dr. Pablo de Azcarate, the United Nations representative who was present when evacuation took place, was quoted by M. Pierre Dubar, correspondent of the Paris Figaro as saying:

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"I have seen everything. Nothing was done against the rules or conventions. The fire which started in the Jewish Quarter was accidental. I have not seen one Arab soldier lay his hand on any Jewish property in that Quarter. I have seen an Arab soldier consoling an old Jewess who was crying for being left behind by her family."

M. Dubar reported further that he visited the Jewish wounded in the Armenian Patriarchate - numbering about 180.

"They told me," he said, "that Arabs treated them very nicely. When fire started in the Jewish Quarter the Arabs did their best to put it out and speed evacuation."

