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This is what Israel is doing to the children of Palestine, America, are you listening? Robin, Under The Holly Tree



April 9, 2008

On Sunday (April 6th) when I was surfing the net, I came upon an article that stated that the day before, Saturday April 5th, was Palestinian Children's Day. With heart sunk that I had missed the day I "surfed" more, only to find that I could NOT find any celebrations of this day this year, although I did find [Annie's post](#) which has this to say " Today we celebrate the Palestinian child, despite there being little cause for celebration..."

As a mother my heart sank further. Why hasn't this day been commemorated this year with celebrations, but I knew the answer. How can you celebrate when Palestinian children are living in such misery.

Upon "surfing" for this post when googling "Palestinian Children's Day", there is more,:

Uruknet: "[Israeli Siege Kills Five Palestinian Patients In One Day](#)". Among them: " 16-year-old child called Mahmoud was also among the five siege victims who died today after doctors failed to procure chemical medicines for his cancer disease."

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:: **Lynching Saddam**
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AMSI



IMEMC: "[Special Report on World Health Day: Palestinian Detainees Still Facing Slow Death](#)". In this article which reports on the torture, medical neglect and inhumane and ILLEGAL treatment of Palestinian detainees, it also states: "

16. Female detainees are not provided with specialized physicians. Some of the detainees are pregnant or gave birth in prison but are not receiving the needed food and medical attention that the mother and the child need.

17. Several detainees who gave birth in prison were tied to their beds during delivery. Some of the detainees who gave birth in prison were identified as; Manal Ghanim , Khawla Zeitawi, and Samar Sbei

On this day, April 9th, it is the anniversary of the [massacre of Deir Yassin](#). From [Electronic Intifada](#) one reads: " Fahimi Zidan, a Palestinian child who survived by hiding under his parents' bodies, recalled: "The Jews ordered [us] ... to line up against the wall ... started shooting ... all ... were killed: my father ... mother ... grandfather and grandmother ... uncles and aunts and some of their children ... Halim Eid saw a man shoot a bullet into the neck of my sister ... who was ... pregnant. Then he cut her stomach open with a butcher's knife ... In another house, Naaneh Khalil ... saw a man take a ... sword and slash my neighbor ..." [3]

From the April 7th edition of Yemen Times there is "[Crushed Childhoods: Cruel Choices](#)". In part this article reads, "Palestinians were once reputed as being among the best educated in the Middle East; today, after years of violence, closure, and poverty, their proud tradition of educational excellence has been shattered. Almost 2,000 children in Gaza have dropped out of school in the last five months. Those that remain must share tattered textbooks and do without crucial resources. The January 2008 semester exams at UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East) schools in Gaza found fifty to sixty per cent failure rates in mathematics, and forty per cent failure rate in Arabic – the children's native language. Despite this, Ayman insists, "I want to be an educated person. I want to be an engineer to build my country."

From Palestine Media Center (Apr 7): "[Israel Kills More Than 50 Palestinian Children in 2008](#)"

Ironically there is a Palestine, Texas also, so when "surfing" "Palestine", I come across articles which strike me always, because what is going on in Palestine, Texas, is a FAR cry from what is going on in Palestine. America's children are not always safe, especially those living in poverty and the inner cities, the "forgotten children" of the "Greatest Nation on Earth". But for those in Palestine ,Texas, this last Saturday, they celebrated "[Healthy Kids Day](#)" at their local YMCA.

This is the sadness and rage in my heart at all times, my country is ultimately responsible for what is happening in Palestine. Without the [massive US aide](#) given to Israel, this would NOT be happening. If my country applied what are SUPPOSEDLY our American values to the Palestinian/Israeli situation, we would NOT be looking the other way when [Israel commits these atrocities](#).

America has children. We ADORE our children. Yet we support a country which has NO regard for the precious lives of Palestinian children.

This is what Israel is doing to the children of Gaza. America, are you listening?

:: Autodeterminazione e resistenza irakena
di [Aldo Bernardini](#),
Ordinario di Diritto internazionale all'Università di Teramo

:: ONU - XX Assemblea Generale (1965):
La XX Assemblea Generale dell'ONU (1965) dichiara "la legittimità della lotta da parte dei popoli sotto oppressione coloniale, per esercitare il loro diritto all'autodeterminazione e all'indipendenza".
Inoltre, l'Assemblea invita "tutti gli Stati a fornire assistenza morale e materiale ai movimenti di liberazione nazionale nei territori coloniali".

:: ONU - Risoluzione 1514
"L'Assemblea Generale dichiara che: la soggezione dei popoli a dominio straniero, conquista e asservimento costituisce una negazione dei diritti umani fondamentali, è contraria alla Carta delle Nazioni Unite ed è un impedimento alla promozione della pace e della cooperazione mondiali.
Tutti i popoli hanno diritto all'autodeterminazione; in virtù di tale diritto essi devono liberamente determinare il loro status politico e liberamente perseguire il loro sviluppo economico,

sociale e culturale".

The Children of Gaza

:: Convenzione di Ginevra, Protocollo Addizionale I (1977):

La lotta armata può essere usata, come ultima risorsa, come mezzo per esercitare il diritto all' autodeterminazione.

:: Tribunale penale internazionale

In base allo Statuto del Tribunale penale internazionale, sono definiti "crimini di guerra":
(1) attacchi lanciati intenzionalmente contro popolazione civili in quanto tali o contro civili che non prendano direttamente parte alle ostilità;
(4) attacchi lanciati intenzionalmente nella consapevolezza che gli stessi avranno come conseguenza la perdita di vite umane tra la popolazione civile, e lesioni a civili o danni a proprietà civili ovvero danni diffusi duraturi e gravi all'ambiente naturale che siano manifestamente eccessivi rispetto all'insieme dei concreti e diretti i vantaggi militari previsti.

:: Iraq anthem (click to listen)

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09/04/2008

By Saleh al Naeimi

Gaza, Asharq Al-Awsat- 10 year old Khamis Wafi has good reason to be happy; it is the first time he has not jumped at the sound of a balloon bursting. This "achievement" was the result of treatment supervised by Ali Nasman, a psychiatrist who is caring for dozens of Palestinian children in the Gaza Strip, specifically in the northern regions, for the shocks that they have suffered as a result of the sounds of explosions launched during Israeli operations that targeted the Gaza Strip, in particular during Operation Hot Winter that began at the end of February.

The treatment process is based on the idea of accustoming children to the sounds of explosions in order to reduce their psychological effect. There have been positive results amongst some children whereas others are terribly frightened when they hear a balloon bursting.

Investing in the treatment of children for psychological shocks that they have suffered as a result of shelling operations is truly justified since the condition is so common. Ibrahim Hawash, 42 years old, frequently calls his wife during his nightshift at work to make sure that she follows the prescribed treatment for their children's involuntary urination condition. The family doctor confirmed that the four children, who are in primary school, have lost the ability to control their bladders as a result of the shock they suffered when Israeli army jets bombed a house close to their home in Jabalya refugee camp in the northern Gaza Strip during the Hot Winter military campaign.

The four children still remember this terrifying night when they suddenly woke up to the deafening sound of an explosion and found that glass from their windows had landed on their beds. Ibrahim, who works at a Palestinian security agency, said that his children refuse to sleep alone and insist on sleeping in the same bedroom as their parents out of fear. He added that it took a lot of effort to persuade two of his children to go back to school as they are afraid of Israeli bombing operations taking place on their way to school or whilst at school. Thousands of Palestinian children have experienced what Hawash's four children are going through.

Dr. Aish Samour, director of the Psychiatric Hospital in Gaza, stated that 30% of Palestinian children under 10 years of age suffer from involuntary urination due to deep-seated fear and mentions other nervous habits such as nail-biting, having nightmares, physical pains of unknown cause, crying and introversion.

Dr Samour explained that "A child exposed to this much violence becomes violent in his interaction with colleagues and siblings. This condition lowers his educational level and weakens his ability to concentrate." He pointed out that Palestinian children who go through shocking experiences during invasions and bombings become less obedient to their parents and families.

Samour stated that since the beginning of this year, the percentage of children who frequently visit the hospital has increased. The hospital currently receives 33 children a month that is a 30% increase over the previous year. Samour highlighted that 47% of children have suffered psychological shocks without their families realizing it. "The children of Gaza are not children who lead normal lives. They endure difficult psychological suffering as a result of the Israeli occupation's actions, which has a negative impact on their lives, their psychological health and



"Neoconned" and "Neoconned Again", two new collections of essays



America's "War on Terrorism" book by Michel Chossudovsky

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:: Special reports on the trial of President Saddam Hussein by Dr. Curtis F. Doebbler

their ability to adapt to life," he said.

According to a study conducted by the Gaza Community Mental Health Program, every Palestinian child has been exposed to over nine shocking events. The study added that 95.6% of children have seen images of the wounded and dead, and 95% have been affected by the sounds of explosions. The study further indicated that all children have been exposed to some kind of psychological shock whereby 60% of children have experienced moderate psychological shock, 6.7% have experienced minor psychological shock, while 33.3% have experienced major psychological shock. The study indicated that 15.6% suffer from minor post-traumatic disorder, 62.2% suffer moderately, while 20% suffer severely.

Dr. Eyad Al Sarraj, director of the Gaza Community Mental Health Program, stated that Palestinian children have lost the sense of security and the sense of happiness. According to a study conducted by the Gaza Community Mental Health Program, 45% of children said that they had watched Israeli soldiers beat and insult their fathers in front of them. "The fact that Palestinian children take refuge in Palestinian organizations reflects their desire to gain a new strong identity that can protect them," Al Sarraj added.

Al Sarraj pointed out that matters are further complicated by the fact that Palestinian children are suffering from a chronic state of malnutrition that affects their intellect. He added that the accumulation of repression and violence affects the mental and creative abilities of Palestinian children and pushes them to resort to acts of extremism that reflect the pain and frustration that they feel. Al Sarraj indicated that approximately 36% of boys aged between eight and 12, and 17% of girls, hope to die in martyrdom operations against the Israeli army.

According to another Palestinian study, 15% of children in the Gaza Strip have suffered a loss in the family at the hands of the Israeli army, 9% have one family member who suffers from a disability after having been shot by the occupation forces, 21% have a family member in exile and 42% have family members who are political detainees.

Samih Abu Zakya, a children's specialist and the director of a center concerned with Palestinian children's art, highlighted another danger that threatens all children even if they are not exposed directly to Israeli operations, namely, the painful scenes witnessed by children via the different forms of media especially satellite channels, which add to the psychological pressure that children are experiencing. He believes that allowing children to watch these scenes is a "violation of children's rights". Abu Zakya warned against such negative impacts going untreated, the consequences of which can be disastrous. At the same time, he called upon implementing programs that aim to alleviate the pressure that children have experienced during the recent bloody events.

Yet the suffering of Palestinian children does not stop at the psychological level; dozens of children have been killed during the first quarter of this year. According to a report by the department of national and international relations in the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), the number of Palestinians killed as a result of Israeli military operations within the Palestinian Territories since the beginning of this year is estimated at 274, including 50 children, two of whom were newborns (20 days old and seven months old) and 18 women. According to data from the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 50% of the population of the West Bank and Gaza Strip are under 16 years of age. This means that nearly two million children have psychologically suffered as a result of Israeli repression.

Dr. Fadl Abu Haien, a psychology professor at Al Aqsa University in Gaza, believes that Palestinian children, as a result of the psychological



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pressure that they endure, resort to different ways to adapt to this harsh reality, indicating that one common result is quietness in reaction to tension, anxiety, fear, isolation, introversion and that they withdraw and seldom take part in social and family activities.

As part of his scientific research, Abu Haien concluded that Palestinian children resort to behavior that is inappropriate to their age as a result of pressure. He added that in some cases, as a result of fear of Israeli operations and difficult psychological problems, the child's consciousness is disrupted and can appear in the form of sleepwalking and health-related problems.

Dr. Tayseer Diyab, a prominent researcher in the field of mental health, conducted an in-depth study with a team of psychiatrists on the impact of Israeli violence and blockade on Palestinian children in Gaza. Diyab found that there was a substantial increase in violence amongst children, in and outside of school, by forming gangs and fighting using chains and sticks and using abusive language. The results indicated that children had become more insensitive and that they lacked a sense of danger as, for example, they would gather around places where shelling had occurred and would pick up remains of rockets.

Dr. Diyab recounted a story of one of the children under observation who asked him, "Does heaven have electricity?" He added, "I get scared when there is no electricity."

The psychiatrists who took part in the study asked 26 pupils to imagine the best place that they could and the results showed that none of the children could think of anywhere since their imaginations were confined to places related to sadness and suffering such as cemeteries or prisons. As for the drawing exercise, children were asked to illustrate an image of the homes in their district and most of them drew one small house and this portrays the sadness that overwhelms them.

Furthermore, the psychological suffering of 300 children detained in Israeli prisons must also be taken into consideration. Dr. Fouad Al Khuffash, the Director of the Ahrar Center for Prisoners Studies said, "The Israeli intelligence agency places every detained Palestinian child in a cell alone for a week where an investigation is carried out regarding his involvement in stone throwing," he added. He said that investigators threatened children with rape and would hurl abusive language at them.

In a statement to Asharq Al-Awsat, he added, "Reprimanding a child everyday, threatening to arrest his brother or using other immoral threats destroys one's soul and is a motive to commit suicide." He pointed out that the Israeli intelligence agencies are continuing to create new methods to force detained children to become spies in order to destroy the Palestinian social fabric. Al Khuffash added that the [Israeli] Shabak security service depends on detained children in order to plant the biggest number of spies amongst Palestinian people. All detained children are invited to join Shabak and they are beaten and threatened with rape to convince them to go down the road of treason.

:: Article nr. 42901 sent on 09-apr-2008 21:48 ECT

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Link: thehollytree.blogspot.com/2008/04/this-is-what-israel-is-doing-to.html

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