

CPTnet

September 29, 2004

HEBRON DISTRICT: CPTers Kim Lamberty and Chris Brown badly injured by settlers in the south Hebron hills

At about 7:15am on the morning of Wednesday September 29, 2004 settlers attacked Christian Peacemaker Team members Chris Brown and Kim Lamberty as they accompanied children to school. The children, from the village of Tuba, have experienced harassment from settlers in the past as they go to school in the village of al-Tuwani.

The five settlers, dressed in black and wearing masks, came from an outpost of the nearby Ma'on settlement and attacked Brown and Lamberty with a chain and bat. All of the children escaped injury by running back to their homes.

The settlers pushed Brown to the ground, whipped him with a chain and kicked him in the chest, which punctured his lung. They kicked and beat Lamberty's legs. She is not able to walk because of an injury to her knee and has a broken arm. The settlers also stole Lamberty's waistpack, which held her passport, money and cellular phone.

Lamberty and Brown were taken by ambulance to Soroka hospital in Beer Sheva for treatment. Hebron Team Support person, Rich Meyer, reports that the two CPTers told him they are receiving excellent care from Israeli doctors.

Children from four small Palestinian villages walk to a central school in the village of al-Tuwani. Because settlers have harassed the children since school began in September, and the Israeli police would not intervene to prevent the attacks, the villagers have sought the protection of international accompaniment. A coalition comprising Christian Peacemaker Teams, the Israeli group Tayush and members of Operation Dove, (an Italian Christian organization that undertakes accompaniment work similar to CPT's work), set up a presence in the village of al-Tuwani beginning on September 12, 2004. The three groups initially committed themselves to six weeks of accompaniment after members of these organizations witnessed sett-

ler attacks on children each time they made exploratory visits to the area.

Christian Peacemaker Teams, Operation Dove and Tayush plan to continue accompanying children to school in al-Tuwani.

Journalists wishing more information may call Hebron Team Supporter person Rich Meyer at 574-202 3920.

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HEBRON DISTRICT: Updates on Brown and Lamberty's injuries and al-Tuwani accompaniment project

Since the settler attack on Chris Brown and Kim Lamberty this morning, Lamberty has been released from the Soroka hospital in Beer Sheva. She received treatment for a broken arm and a broken knee and is recovering at the home of CPT reservists Paul Pierce and Kathy Kamphoefner in Jerusalem. CPTer Christina Gibb is also with her.

Brown, whom the settlers beat with a bat and chains, remains in the hospital. He sustained broken ribs from the attack. One punctured his lung, for which he required surgery. He suffered a contusion to his temple, but doctors have now ruled out a brain injury.

Various articles written about the attack on Brown and Lamberty have made point of saying that they "claim" their attackers were settlers, but could not say for certain, since their attackers were masked. For some reason, the BBC internet news reported on the incident under the headline "Jewish settlers 'attack' US workers" and illustrated the article with a picture of a screaming settler woman lying on the ground with her baby.

The Jerusalem Post interviewed Lamberty and noted that she heard the attackers say "take her phone" in English when they spotted her trying to call for help after they finished with her and moved on to Brown. The police told the Jerusalem Post that they believed the attacks were a robbery, even though the settlers took nothing from Brown, and only took Lamberty's waistpack after she tried to call for help.

Noting that the attackers carried bats, Rabbi Arik Asherman, Director of Rabbis for Human rights told the *_Jerusalem Post_*, "I don't know how many Palestinian baseball teams there are in that area. It is quite clear that the attackers were settlers."

The *_Post_* concludes its article with "Settlers from Maon and its satellite outposts are among the more ideological and sometimes radical of the settlement movement."

The school accompaniment project in al-Tuwani village was organized by the Israeli group Tayush, the Italian group, Operation Dove and Christian Peacemaker Teams. Volunteers from Tayush and Operation Dove will accompany school children along with the remaining CPTers tomorrow.

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HEBRON DISTRICT: School children threatened in south Hebron hills

The Christian Peacemaker Team (CPT) in Hebron has replaced its two members, Chris Brown and Kim Lamberty, who were attacked and injured on yesterday morning by Israelis from the Ma'on settlement outpost. This morning, September 30, the children from the village of Tuba were able to reach school safely in al-Tuwani. An Israeli police jeep outside the Maon settlement helped to ensure a peaceful journey. The District Coordinating Officer (DCO) has confirmed the children's right to use the "settler road" to go to school.

Unfortunately an Israeli army patrol entered al-Tuwani today warning villagers that if CPT continued to accompany the schoolchildren along that road, "there will be violence." The villagers are upset and confused by this development.

The army patrol is clearly acting without proper authority, but that fact is no comfort to villagers and their CPT accompaniers who must bear the consequences the military's tacit support of the settlers' violence. CPT members, along with the Italian group, Operation Dove and the Israeli group, Taayush, are present in the area at

the request of Palestinian villagers who are suffering repeated harassment from Israeli settlers while Israeli authorities have failed to intervene.

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HEBRON: Thank-you from Hebron team

We have been moved and strengthened by the messages of prayerful support that continue to reach us since the attack on Kim Lamberty and Chris Brown. They are far too many for individual replies.

Kim and Chris are in good spirits, and we are determined to continue their work both here in Hebron and in the South Hebron hills.

We know you will continue to pray for Chris and Kim, for the Palestinian school kids, for all God's children in the Holy Land, and especially for the peacemakers, be they Jews, Christians or Muslims.

Peace and love -

Christian Peacemaker Team, Hebron

Wed., September 29, 2004 Tishrei 14,
5765

U.S. volunteers escorting Palestinian children attacked

*By Amira Hass, Haaretz Correspondent, and
Haaretz Service*

Unidentified assailants attacked two American Christian volunteers who were escorting Palestinian schoolchildren Wednesday morning near the settlement of Maon in the southern Hebron Hills area of the West Bank.

The assailants beat the volunteers and robbed them. The two were evacuated by Israeli ambulance to Soroka Medical Center in Be'er Sheva.

The attackers, numbering four or five, were dressed in black and wore masks. They spoke English and were carrying chains and clubs.

They did not attack the schoolchildren, who quickly fled the scene, but stole a bag belonging to female volunteer Kim Lamberty, 44, and broke her arm. The bag contained her passport, money and cellular phone.

The assailants beat the second volunteer, Chris Brown, 39, with chains. He suffered a punctured lung and external bleeding.

Both volunteers are affiliated with the Christian Peacemakers Teams, which escorts Palestinian schoolchildren living with their families in caves in the village of Tuba to their primary school in the village of Al-Tuwani, an approximately half-hour walk.

The road along which the volunteers and schoolchildren pass is used by settlers and is forbidden to Palestinian vehicular traffic.

Palestinian pedestrians, however, are permitted to use the road.

However, the schoolchildren are afraid to pass unescorted through the area because of what they describe as harassment by area Jewish settlers.

Asked about Wednesday's attack on the U.S. activists, Josh Hasten, a spokesman for the settlers' Yesha Council, said: "We know nothing of this specific incident but are opposed to any violation of the law."

Jewish settlers attack American Christian volunteers near Hebron

By Sep 29, 2004, 17:03

Jewish settlers immigrants from North America on Wednesday attacked and severely beat American Christian peace volunteers near the village of Yatta south west of Hebron, Palestinian and Israeli sources said.

According to the Hebron-based Christian Peace Making Team (CPT), five settlers carrying iron chains and baseball clubs, assaulted two volunteers (a woman and a man) who were escorting Palestinian school children to their school at the village of Tuba near the settlement of Maon in the southern Hebron hills.

The assailants reportedly beat the two volunteers and robbed them. The two were evacuated by an Israeli ambulance to a hospital in the southern Israeli town of Be'ir Sheva where they have been listed in moderate conditions.

The assailants reportedly also stole a bag belonging to a female volunteer named Kim Lamberty, 44. The bag contained passport, money and a cellular phone. It is not clear

if the settlers had wanted to attack Palestinian school children who fled to their homes.

A CPT spokesperson in Hebron named Cal Carpenter told PIC that one volunteer named Chris had a collapsed lung while a woman volunteer had bruises and cuts.

Asked why he thought the settlers assaulted his friends, Carpenter said the settlers "didn't like what we were doing, namely escorting Palestinian kids to their schools."

"They apparently were unhappy to see us stand by the kids whom the settlers want to abuse....so they thought that we were frustrating their efforts."

Carpenter said the CPT volunteers wouldn't be intimidated by the Jewish settlers savagery."

"We will go to the village tomorrow and we will escort the kids to their school."

According to Palestinian locals, the settlers in the area despise the Christian activists for "helping the Palestinians stay in the area."

"The settlers believe the Christians are disrupting their efforts to get the Palestinians to leave the area," one local told PIC.

The incident came less than 48 hours after a Jewish settler from a settlement near the Northern West Bank town of Nablus murdered, reportedly in cold blood, a Palestinian driver and father of eight children.

The settler, however, has been freed from police custody and placed under temporary house arrest.

The Israeli army, in concert with settler leaders in the area, have been trying to expel several hundreds Palestinian families from the area for the purpose of expanding the settlement of Maon.

Two years ago, the army destroyed hundreds of caves and many cisterns belonging to the Palestinians in order to get them to leave.

Relations between the settlers and the Christian volunteers have never been good. Jewish settlers, indoctrinated in a staunchly anti-Christian ideology, routinely throw rocks and shout obscenities at the volunteers.