

HEBRON DISTRICT: Settlers again attack CPTers, Palestinians and other international accompaniment volunteers

CPTnet October 9, 2004

By Maia Williams

On Saturday, October 9, 2004 at around 3p.m., on the road from Tuba to Tuwani, eight settlers with wooden sticks and sling shots attacked CPTers Diana Zimmerman and Diane Janzen, an Operation Dove member (name withheld by request), one resident from Tuwani, two residents from Tuba, and two fieldworkers from Amnesty International, Donatella Rovera and Maartje Houbrechts.

When the accompaniment team saw the settlers, dressed in blue jeans, t-shirts, and masks walking toward them they called the police immediately and began walking quickly away from the settlers. Three of the settlers with sling shots ran after the Palestinians hurling stones at them. The other five settlers attacked the accompaniment team. The masked settlers hit Donatello Rovera and Diane Janzen with wooden sticks. Then the settlers beat the Operation Dove member and stole his video camera. The settlers finally ran away when one of the Amnesty International women yelled at the the settlers in Hebrew, "The police are coming. You are not going to get away with this."

The police did not arrive until thirty-five minutes after the internationals called for help.

The army has declared the path that runs beside the Ma'on settlement a closed military. The CPTers and Operation Dove members in Tuwani decided to accompany the school children from Tuwani to Tuba by another, longer route.

The Operation Dove member collapsed on his way to the ambulance that took him to the hospital in Beer Sheva; doctors treated him for a broken arm and ruled out internal injuries.

CPT HEBRON URGENT ACTION:

Tell Israeli government to stop settler attacks on Palestinian schoolchildren, CPTers and other international accompaniers CPTnet, October 9, 2004

For the second time in ten days, masked men from the Ma'on settlement have attacked internationals who have accompanied Palestinians to and from school. The September 30, 2004 attack resulted in a broken knee and arm for CPTer Kim Lamberty and a punctured lung for CPTer Chris Brown. This afternoon, settlers attacked CPTers Diane Janzen and Diana Zimmerman and Amnesty International field researcher Donatella Rovera with wooden sticks and then attacked a volunteer from Operation Dove, an Italian peace group, breaking his arm (he was videotaping the assault.)

Settlers from Ma'on have been trying to drive out the Palestinian residents of this remote area in the Hebron District for years, physically assaulting them, killing their livestock and burning their crops. Because settler harassment of Palestinian children on their way to school in al-Tuwani had become progressively more vicious, CPT, along with *Operation Dove* and *Taayush*, an Israeli peace group, set up an accompaniment project beginning on September 12, 2004.

CPT is asking its supporters to fax or call the Israeli ambassadors to Canada and the U.S., saying they are aware of the attacks on the CPTers. (Canadians, note that Diane Janzen is a Canadian citizen.) Ask the following questions:

*Why are the Israeli police not protecting Palestinian children traveling to school in al-Tuwani? Note that harassment of the children has been ongoing and that the police appear to be choosing not to prevent further settler attacks on international volunteers?

*What steps is the Israeli government taking to prevent these attacks?

*Why do the soldiers and settler security personnel prevent the children from walking on the road near Ma'on settlement to get to school, ignoring the permission the children have received from the Israeli District Coordinating Officer and the Israeli police to walk on that road?

* Does the Ambassador understand how allowing settlers to attack schoolchildren and internationals committed to nonviolence damages Israel's reputation?

People may also choose to fax Ariel Sharon, noting that he has closely aligned himself with settlers in the past, and asking him what steps he is taking to prevent further attacks. Note that he has ordered one of the Ma'on "outpost" settlements from which the attackers came demolished to appease the Bush administration.

Contacts

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon

Fax: 011-972-2-651-2631