

PUBLIC

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Further information on UA 64/02 (MDE 15/015/2002, 28 February 2002) - Fear for safety

ISRAEL/OCCUPIED TERRITORIESPalestinians in Jenin refugee camp

As most of you will know, the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) withdrew from Jenin on 25 April 2002.

From 4 to 15 April, the IDF effectively blocked ambulances and humanitarian aid from reaching residents of Jenin refugee camp, including the sick and wounded. During this period the IDF used bulldozers to reduce a large area of the camp, containing more than 100 two- and three-storey houses, to rubble. An unknown number of people were buried under the rubble, while the IDF continued to block access. It appears there was no absolute military necessity for much of this demolition.

In addition to those who died under the rubble, the IDF appear to have killed a number of residents of the camps unlawfully. Professor Derrick Pounder, a pathologist taking part in an Amnesty International delegation, carried out an autopsy on two bodies and said that the circumstances of their deaths gave cause for suspicion. Relatives of victims told delegates of others who had been unlawfully killed, including two unarmed Palestinians summarily killed by soldiers.

Amnesty International called for an international inquiry into alleged human rights abuses against Palestinians in Jenin refugee camp since 3 April 2002. UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan assembled a delegation to carry out a fact-finding mission to establish the truth of what occurred at Jenin refugee camp during the IDF incursion, but Israeli demands led him to disband it. Amnesty International has strongly criticised the Israeli demands as unreasonable.

Many thanks to all those who sent appeals. No further action is required by the UA network at present.