

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 15/015/2002

UA 64/02

Fear for Safety

28 Februa

ISRAEL/OCCUPIED TERRITORIESPalestinians in Nablus and Jenin

The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) have been attacking Palestinian refugee camps in Nablus and Jenin on West Bank. Three Palestinians have reportedly been killed and 124 injured, 20 of them seriously in Balata Refugee Camp near Nablus. Seven Palestinians were killed and seven injured in Jenin refugee camp. Amnesty International is seriously concerned for the safety of Palestinians in these camps.

The IDF allegedly entered Balata at night on 27 February and Jenin camp at 5am on 28 February apparently in order to arrest Palestinians wanted for armed operations against Israelis. They were reportedly fired on from within the camps, one IDF soldier was killed and at least one injured. Refugee camps, where Palestinian exiles have lived since 1948, contain an extremely high density civilian population. The IDF used missiles fired from Apache helicopters as well as tank rounds or bullets from heavy machine guns mounted on Merkava tanks, in both camps endangering the lives of bystanders. This clearly represents a disproportionate use of lethal force.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English or your own language:

- calling on the Israeli authorities to end and prevent unlawful killings by ensuring strict compliance with international standards on the use of force and firearms;
- calling on the Israeli authorities to investigate the killings in Balata and Jenin Refugee camps and for those responsible for unlawful killings to be brought to justice;
- urging the Israeli authorities to agree to the introduction of international observers with a strong, public and transparent mandate to monitor respect for international humanitarian law and human rights.

APPEALS TO:

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon
Office of the Prime Minister
3 Kaplan Street, PO Box 187
Kiryat Ben-Gurion
Jerusalem 91919, Israel

Telegrams: Prime Minister, Jerusalem

Fax: + 972 2 651 2631

Salutation:Dear Prime Minister

Lieutenant-General Shaul Mufaz
Chief of General Staff
c/o Ministry of Defence
7 'A' Street, Hakirya
Tel Aviv, Israel

Telegrams: Chief of General Staff, Jerusalem

Fax: + 972 3 691 6940

Salutation:Dear Lieutenant-General

Benjamin Ben-Eliezer
Minister of Defence
Ministry of Defence
Kaplan Street, Hakirya

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Tel Aviv 67659, Israel

Telegrams: Minister of Defence, Jerusalem

Fax: + 972 3 691 6940

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO: Diplomatic representatives of Israel/Occupied Territories
accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 11 April 2002.