

**ATROCITIES
IN THE
HOLY LAND**



**PUBLICATIONS
of the
ARAB NATIONAL BUREAU
DAMASCUS**

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On the 9th. of December, 1938, the British Ministry for Colonies issued a broadcast relating to what was published in the foreign press concerning the constant brutal treatment meted out to the Arabs in Palestine by the British troops and Police. The Ministry declared that most of this news emanates from certain sources in the Near East, that the British Government shall take appropriate measures when circumstances prove their necessity; and stated that investigations as to the behaviour of four members of the police

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force have been initiated.

Scarcely a day passes in which the National Bureau of Damascus does not receive authentic news about the shameful behaviour of the British troops against the Arabs in Palestine. This Bureau hopes that the Ministry for Colonies is earnestly endeavouring to keep the reputation of the British Army clean and unblemished at a time when undeniable news corroborated by eye-witnesses arrive relating murders and tortures of the innocent, lootings of houses and shops, and assaults and violation of women's innocence by brutal force.

These acts are so general and have become so common that hardly a single Arab in Palestine has not been a witness to, or a victim of, some of

them. How can they reasonably be denied? All the Arabs in Palestine establish their truth based on data, names and statistics.

We suggest and earnestly request that the British Government send a neutral commission to investigate into the atrocities committed by its troops. We are willing to respect the outcome of its honest investigations.

This Bureau claims to possess correct documents purporting to many of those atrocities, supported by names, dates and lists of looted articles. It welcomes any request by the British Government to supply copies of these documents which would help the investigations, should they be earnestly endeavouring to protect the unenviably jeopardized reputation of

their army. If the Ministry for Colonies is anxious to save this reputation and keep it free from scandals, the Arabs are at the same time more anxious that members of the Army Corps and Police Force should cease to indulge in any further offences of that type the outcome of which would only create hatred in the heart of every Arab and serve no useful purpose.

Is the Ministry for Colonies informed of what took place in Palestine after it issued its above-mentioned declaration? Has any investigation been since initiated? We do not intend here to enumerate what was committed by the British troops before the declaration. It would take volumes to do so. We propose in this pamphlet to only mention and place before you samples of those acts of violence and atrocities

which took place since the ninth of December, 1938, so that, should the Ministry for Colonies, as we said before, in consequence be anxious to go into the matter, the Arab National Bureau would be willing and thoroughly prepared to supply all the necessary details and documents in its possession and thus help make the investigation successful :-

1

In Atteel

(Tulkarem district)

The troops entered the mosque and carried away Mohammad Hussein Al Nasser, an old man who was performing his prayers, to the outskirts of the township where they murdered him without any warning. Another,

called Awadh Mohammad Al Taki, was taken out of his house and shot dead. His head was thereafter disfigured and tramped upon with military boots. Saffieh, wife of Mohammad Khaleel Al Shukry, was attacked by British soldiers who attempted to commit adultery with her by force. As she resisted, they shot her dead. Abderrahman Al Faleh, Deeb Omar Assia, and Rasheed Mohammad Rasheed were dragged into a hut stored with wood, hay and manure. They were locked in and the hut was set on fire burning the three men alive.

Most of the inhabitants have been incapacitated with torture and exposure during a whole day. Four men were put in gaol; seventy houses

destroyed, and twenty five stocked shops burnt, the names of which are to hand. The families of this unhappy town, becoming homeless, deserted it and sought refuge in the neighboring towns. All furniture and glass were destroyed, damaged or looted by the troops.

The troops committed adultery with some women by brutal force after tearing their clothes, and unnatural acts with some schoolboys by compulsion. The towns of Nablus, Haifa, Jaffa and Tulkarem went on strike in protest against these crimes.

the houses at night or climb upon the roofs on ladders. The other day the troops forced the women of the town into the mosque and led all men to the camp. Some of the troops forced their way into the house of the late Abdelkareem Al Muneier attempting to assault his daughter Adla, who with the rest of the household, succeeded in repulsing them and was able to defend her honour. The soldiers also dragged the aged bed-ridden Mohammad Farres Al Helou from his death-bed; he passed away in the process. The wife of Ismail Sharaf, while seized with the pangs of childbirth, was dragged out of her bed in the presence of her doctor. She died on her way from haemorrhage.

Izzat Al Jabi, who was accompanied by two of his friends near the

mosque of Al Anbiya, was attacked by British soldiers and beaten fiercely. He was then ordered to march before them and shot dead at a distance of four yards. Then the soldiers finished him up by cutting him open with their bayonets and tramped upon him savagely. The corpse was interned by the military authorities without permitting any of his relatives to march in his funeral, nor religious ceremony to be performed.

3

In Rafeedia
(Nablus district)

While the troops were searching the village, a blind man, by the name of Osman Al Bagl, on leaving an oil press was shot dead. The troops

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While the troops were searching the village, a blind man, by the name of Osman Al Bagl, on leaving an oil press was shot dead. The troops

viciously drove all the inhabitants to Nablus camp where they were tortured in every conceivable manner. At night the soldiers arrested Abd Aboul Oud in his home, marched him to Akabat Al Badan and murdered him thereafter disfiguring his face with their bayonets.

4

In Seelat Hartheeieh
(Jenin district)

The inhabitants were gathered together by the troops. Abderrazzak Al Assad, Abu Shukair and a visiting Bedouin were selected from among them and shot dead on the spot. Izzat Khalaf was taken away to an unknown destination; but his clothes were later found torn, stained with blood and discarded in the vicinity of the town.

Before the soldiers left, they shot down the aged Hamed Abou Muhyeddeen who was on his way home.

5

In Salfect
(Nablus district)

It was entered by the troops who separated all the women and the children in a group, and the men in another, for forty-eight hours in the open without food while the soldiers searched every house. On the following day, some of the women were permitted to fetch food for their crying children. On their way, they were shot at by the soldiers and four of them killed.

6

In Krad El Kheit

A military force in searching the Bedouin tents of Krad El Kheit in the vicinity of Al Houleh, found a dagger in one of the tents, a pistol in another and a rifle in a third. The owners of the three tents were arrested, lined up before their tribe and immediately shot dead. The soldiers entered the tents again, insulted every occupant and burned their contents.

7

In Zerien
(Jenin district)

Mustafa al Haj Mohammad Shah-roor, returning from his Friday prayer in the mosque of Jenin, was met by a group of soldiers. After searching him

for arms and finding nothing on him they ordered him to proceed. No sooner had he taken a few steps than they all fired at him at once killing him in the presence of many inhabitants of his village.

Mohammad Ben Moussa Al Matahen was ploughing his field when the soldiers without any interrogation or warning sniped him and shot his bullock.

8

In Yasseed
(Nablus district)

The troops confronted two peasants driving their cows from the village to plough their fields and shot them dead and disfigured them with their bayonets. Entering the village the soldiers ran among damaging everything.

they placed their hands upon and killing a woman, a child and two men for no reason whatever.

9

In Fackooah
(Jenin district)

The troops gathered the men of the village in the village square. After beating and torturing them, they led all the capable ones among them to forced labour on the roads and to be placed in front of the military trucks and lorries as a target in the event of an attack made upon the troops by the rebels. Two of the soldiers had amused themselves by shooting at the village asses grazing in its vicinity and killed five of them. In the process of this « entertainment », the boy

Mohammad Al Saleh Abbas who was tending the herd, was dangerously wounded. He is now being treated in Nablus hospital.

10

In Kafr Kaddoum
(Nablus district)

Ugly acts of violence similar to those of Rafeedia took place, and three blameless men were killed.

11

In Kafr Soor
(Tulkarm district)

The troops encircled the village, burned three houses and tortured and tormented the inhabitants. The women folk, fearing a repetition of the

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The troops encircled the village, burned three houses and tortured and tormented the inhabitants. The women folk, fearing a repetition of the

assaults made upon the women of Atteel, ran away into the fields in the rain.

12

In Jayouss
(Tulkarm district)

The lot of this village was not happier than that of the previous villages. It even suffered more. Four of the peaceful inhabitants were murdered at the hand of the soldiers in cold blood. Many houses were burnt.

13

In Allar
(Tulkarm district)

The troops encircled the village of Allar and ordered the men to

assemble in one place and the women in another, leaving their homes open to be searched. A group of soldiers entered a house finding in bed a woman who in the previous night had given birth to a child. They assaulted her intending to commit adultery with her in presence of her mother. The two women fought their way out of the house. It is reported that the young mother has since died from the effect of this struggle.

14

In Safad

The city was encircled late at night and the residents were all forced to immediately leave their homes without giving them time to put on any clothes to protect them from the severe cold.

When all were assembled in the squares four men were picked out and taken to an unknown destination. A fine of eighty pounds sterling was imposed upon the city. A similar sum was extorted from the village of Aljaoneh and seventy pounds from Maraam. In both of these two villages the troops collected all furniture and crops, heaped them up in the village squares and burned them. The men were taken into the camp of Almalkiyeh where torture awaited them.

We have placed before you these, ugly facts, bare and naked, without

any attempt at a detailed description. Nor have we endeavoured to indulge in any sentimental expressions which would have fallen short of the rising condemnation in the hearts of all the Arabs against the unparalleled atrocities committed in Palestine by the troops of the British Empire.

These facts are stranger than fiction; hence the unwillingness prevailing in the world to believe them. This is why the British Ministry for Colonies so boldly denies them relying on false propaganda to hide the truth. But murder will out! The world shall not remain ignorant of what is taking place in Palestine.

Nowhere does history repeat itself as it does in Palestine. The Inquisition Courts should pass into oblivion in the face of British cruelty in the Holy

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Land. The proud Arabs do not rely on propaganda. They simply fight for the justice of their cause and die bravely in the attempt. The contrast between the chivalry of the old Crusaders and the conduct of their British descendants is a crying shame!