

AMP MISSION STATEMENT

The American Muslims for Palestine's mission is to educate the public about the just cause of Palestine and the rights of self-determination, liberty and justice. Through providing factual information, training and networking with like-minded, peace-loving organizations and individuals, AMP will raise awareness of the issues pertaining to Palestine and its rich cultural heritage.

AMP'S OBJECTIVES

1. Articulate a unique American perspective on all issues pertaining to Palestine.
2. Reconnect the American Muslim community with Palestine's rich heritage.
3. Provide regular educational and training programs to promote the Palestinian narrative.
4. Develop a media center where data, articles and other materials will be archived so AMP can pro-actively disseminate information about Palestine.



708.598.4267 OFFICE
888.404.4AMP TOLL FREE
info@ampalastine.org FAX

www.ampalastine.org

© 2009 American Muslims for Palestine

PHOTOGRAPHY BY: MATTHEW CASSEL/JUSTIMAGE.ORG
REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION BY **IF AMERICANS KNEW.**

“WE'RE NOT TALKING HERE ABOUT JUST ANOTHER
VERY AGGRESSIVE MISSION. WE'RE TALKING ABOUT
A DIFFERENT CATEGORY OF AGGRESSION, WHICH
HASN'T BEEN AROUND AT ALL.”

~ Mikhael Manekin, of Breaking the Silence, speaking of Israeli military policy in Gaza



P. 888.404.4AMP (4267)
E. info@ampalastine.org

www.ampalastine.org

© 2009 American Muslims for Palestine



**BREAKING RANKS: IDF SOLDIERS
DISCLOSE GAZA ATROCITIES**

AMERICAN MUSLIMS FOR PALESTINE
EMPOWERMENT through
EDUCATION and **ACTION**

TESTIMONY

“I don’t know whether she was suspicious, not suspicious, I don’t know her story... I do know that my officer sent people to the roof in order to take her out. ... It was cold-blooded murder.”

~ Officer's comments about a soldier following orders to kill an elderly Palestinian woman. (Source: Ha’aretz)

This chilling account of murder is just one of many an Israeli military college has published about the indiscriminate killing of innocent civilians in Gaza. Graduates of a pre-military preparatory course at Oranim Academic College were speaking to new recruits in February. The transcripts were published in Ha’aretz on March 19 and 20, 2009.

The soldiers’ accounts of murder, and vandalism run counter to what Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak calls “the most moral army in the world.”

Some descriptions paint an agonizing tale. The following excerpt comes from an infantry squad leader who described how a sniper killed a mother and her two children:

“There was a house with a family inside ... We put them in a room. Later we left the house and another platoon entered it, and a few days after that there was an order to release the family. There was a sniper position on the roof.

“...The sharpshooter saw a woman and children approaching him, closer than the lines he was told no one should pass. He shot them straight away. In any case, what happened is that in the end he killed them.

“I don’t think he felt too bad about it, because after all, as far as he was concerned, he did his job according to the orders he was given. ... The lives of Palestinians, let’s say, is something very, very less important than the lives of our soldiers. So as far as they are concerned they can justify it that way.”

OTHER TROOPS RECOUNTED TALES OF HUMILIATING VANDALISM.

“To write ‘death to the Arabs’ on the walls, to take family pictures and spit on them, just because you can. I think this is the main thing: to understand how much the IDF has fallen in the realm of ethics, really. It’s what I’ll remember the most.”

~ Squad leader’s testimony

MILITARY POLICY

The soldiers’ accounts are corroborated by investigations by Breaking the Silence, an organization made up of Israeli veterans. The group has concluded the orders to kill and vandalize came from top military leaders as a matter of military policy. Only now that the stories are coming to light, is the military trying to blame the troops.

WAR CRIMES CHARGES

“It is clear that the moral failures described (in Oranim) are not simply the behavior of individual soldiers, but the workings of military policy and decision-making about the operation in Gaza,” the group states on its Web site. “... The open-fire orders and communications about the value of Palestinian civilians’ lives that descended through the chain of military command are responsible for the moral degradation of the Israeli armed forces in this operation.”

If the Oranim reports are verified, they could lead to war crimes charges against Israel. Already, the International Criminal Court has received more than 200 requests to investigate Israeli war crimes, according to the New York Times.

Members of the National Lawyers Guild in the U.S. have found strong evidence of illegal weapons use and numerous personal accounts of civilian murder, mainly consisting of women and children. A report of these findings will be compiled and submitted to Congress.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

You can help by supporting American Muslims for Palestine, which is working to bring the Palestinian narrative to Americans. Together we can build a grassroots movement to help bring about change in U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East.

Go to ampalestine.org for more information or to make a donation.