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Inhoud

Palestine Monitor: <http://www.palestinemonitor.org/>

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- Palestinian and international NGO representatives call for increased presence of internationals in Occupied Palestinian Territories, 2 January 2003 [*]

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- International activists attacked by Israeli forces near Qalqilya; Palestinian journalist detained, 30 December 2002 [*]

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY MOVEMENT: www.palsolidarity.org [*]

- Imprisoned in our own land: The Israeli Walls of Apartheid

Ethnic Cleansing: Past, Present and Future, Ran HaCohen, December 30, 2002

<http://www.antiwar.com/hacohen/h-col.html>

Hierna:

- Robert Fisk: Journalists are under fire for telling the truth, 18 December 2002
- Programma EAJG-bijeenkomst zondag 12-1 vanaf 14 uur in De Rode Hoed.
Te zien is de documentaire "In the line of fire" [IDFA!] die toont hoe het Israelische leger journalisten van grote internationale persbureaus intimideert en beschiet.
Daarna houdt Tanya Reinhart een lezing en er volgt discussie.
Programma/reserveren: www.rodehoed.nl en/of (020) 638 5606 tussen 9.00 en 17.30 uur.
- ANP-bericht over delegatie o.l.v. Greta Duisenberg naar de bezette gebieden.
Opmerkelijk: aandacht vestigen op de situatie van het Palestijnse volk is volgens de - met de Likoed van Sharon verbonden - VVD een anti-Israëlische actie. Even onthouden [vrijheid slegs vir].

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NPK/WL, 5-1-2003 .■.

[*] genegeerd in onze media.

Greta Duisenberg alsnog naar Israël vertrokken

AMSTERDAM (ANP) - Greta Duisenberg is zondag als voorzitter van het platform Stop de Oorlog [*] tegen de Palestijnen, naar Israël vertrokken. In november werd een voorgenomen bezoek met een aantal vrouwelijke Kamerleden op het laatste moment om veiligheidsredenen afgeblazen.

Duisenberg zal nu van 5 tot 11 januari 2003 met een andere kleine delegatie een bezoek brengen aan Israël en aan de bezette gebieden. Haar doel is onder meer aandacht te vestigen op de situatie waarin het Palestijnse volk verkeert.

In de nieuwe delegatie zitten schrijfster Anja Meulenbelt, de Palestijnse chirurg Tariq Shadid en Hans de Boer, de

secretaris van het platform. Zij betalen de reis zelf, benadrukt de vrouw van de president van de Europese Centrale Bank.

De vorige keer kwam kritiek omdat de reis zou worden betaald door United Civilians for Peace. Deze club bestaat uit vijf kerkelijke organisaties en de Novib. De VVD in de Tweede Kamer wees erop dat op deze manier subsidie van de overheid en dus belastinggeld naar een „anti-Israëlische" actie zou gaan.
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[*] moet uiteraard zijn: Stop de Bezetting
www.stopdebezetting.nl ■

International delegates close World Social Forum in Palestine with visit and protests in Gaza Strip

As part of the World Social Forum (WSF) in Palestine calendar of activities, three busloads of international non-governmental organization (NGO) representatives from all over the world yesterday attended a WSF morning session in Gaza City, hosted by 40 Palestinian NGOs operating in Gaza. One of the main speakers was Dr. Haidar Abdel-Shafi, a leader of the Palestinian National Initiative and head of the Red Crescent Society in Gaza. After the session the international delegates, along with local Palestinians, demonstrated peacefully in front of the venue before participating in a field trip around the Gaza Strip. The Gaza visit was the closing event of the World Social Forum in Palestine.

The Forum consisted of a meeting of NGOs and individuals from all around the world to discuss how they can respond to the needs of Palestinians in their current situation of poverty and occupation, and how support may be needed in different scenarios in the future. The underlying assumption for the discussion was that of a two-state solution, with self-determination for the Palestinian people as the framework for a just and lasting peace.

During their visit to Gaza, international delegates had the opportunity to witness:

- The unprecedented grabbing of land and resources in the Gaza Strip (42% of the total area has been seized for settlements, "buffer zones", "security" zones or border zones);
- The imposition of a specific Gazan curfew (the "sea curfew" by which fishermen are prevented from fishing, which began with the shrinkage of fishing rights from 20 miles [under Oslo Agreements] to 10 miles, and then down to 5 miles and now includes the bombing of Palestinian fishing boats by Israeli patrols);
- The plight of refugees in the camps (75% of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip live in 12 refugee camps);
- The overall destruction of the Strip (the remains of the Gaza International Sea Port, the remains of Gaza International Airport, the widespread remains of unremitting house demolitions);
- The rapidly increasing levels of poverty and dispossession; ·The daily impact of the illegal Israeli settlements on local Palestinians residents, including untreated raw sewage of the Netzarim settlement (where approximately 15 Jewish families live, served by numerous Chinese and Thai workers) running into the Gaza Sea with its related negative environmental and health impacts;
- The unrelenting arbitrary closures by Israeli soldiers of roads and intersections (in particular around the Abu Gholi Checkpoint) for hours, in order for settlers to have exclusive access and free passage.

Besides these more visible scars of the Israeli occupation, delegates were also briefed on facts and figures, including the fact that 45% of school-aged children have been diagnosed as suffering from PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorders), while their mothers are unable to provide proper care for them as 39% of mothers living in the Gaza Strip have also been diagnosed with PTSD symptoms.

After visiting the Khan Yunis refugee camp, home to more than 80,000 Palestinians, the delegates stopped at the Mawassi area, which is surrounded by the Gush Katif settlement complex (Naved Galin and Ganital settlements).

Despite the fact that it used to produce the best agricultural produce in the Gaza Strip and holds the best aquifers, the Mawassi area (both Mawassi Khan Yunis and Mawassi Rafah) now suffers greatly due to draconian Israeli military measures (a military check point has cut off the area from the rest of the world; international agencies are prevented from entering the area; agricultural goods cannot be transported).

The international delegates then staged a demonstration at the Mawassi checkpoint, where they attempted to intervene with the soldiers manning the barrier to allow women, children and the elderly to cross. Holding banners and singing, "All we are saying, please, give peace a chance," the internationals were joined by locals from Mawassi and the nearby camp.

After some time, soldiers in an armored jeep approached to hear the requests of international delegates, who were holding white flags and asking for negotiations. After some unfruitful dialogue with a team of representatives from several different countries, the jeep suddenly careered at a high speed towards the crowd of internationals mingled with Palestinians. After further talks, the soldiers declared they would be willing to let one vehicle pass (not the women and children, as was first demanded by the demonstrators), under the condition that all demonstrators retreat to a spot behind the metal barrier of the checkpoint. After the delegates retreated, the soldiers still refused to allow the car to pass (later, they opened the crossing for few minutes only and closed it again after the delegates had left to visit other areas of the Strip). The next stop was Block J of Rafah refugee camp, where delegates organized a demonstration near the Egyptian border, on the site of homes recently demolished by Israeli troops. Sewage runs freely around the borders of the camp, due to constant pipe breakage and leaking caused by Israeli tanks and APCs. Some minutes after the start of the demonstration, a tank started to roll into areas of the camp again.

On their way back to Gaza City, due to a new unexpect-

ted closure of the Abu Gholi checkpoint, the three buses transporting the delegations, along with scores of other vehicles were backed up for several kilometers and were delayed for hours.

The delegates then witnessed a house being demolished by two tanks and a giant Caterpillar bulldozer at a "buffer zone" around a settlement. More than 200 homes were destroyed in Gaza alone during 2002. Delegates also met Mohammad, a 12-year-old who attends school in the mornings but who has also created a new job for himself: he distributes his mobile phone number to cars queuing to cross so that next time the customer will, in a bid to try avoid ending up delayed in traffic, call him in advance to ask whether the check point is open or closed. In exchange for the courtesy of the information, the customer will give one or two shekels to Mohammed when crossing the checkpoint.

Mohammad is not the only child with a job -- international delegates realized the appalling extent of child labor in Gaza during the evening, when the sight of children selling all sorts of refreshments near the checkpoint is too common a feature.

A PRESS CONFERENCE will be held at 12.00 on January 2nd at the Palestine Media Center in Ramallah. Journalists will receive an update on international solidarity activities and will also have an opportunity to question international delegates and members of Palestinian civil society organizations.

For more information contact: The Palestine Monitor
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www.palestinemonitor.org ■

From the Independent:

Robert Fisk: Journalists are under fire for telling the truth

18 December 2002

First it was Roger Ailes, the chairman of the Fox News Channel, who advised the US President to take the "harshest measures possible" against those who attacked America on 11 September, 2001.

Let us forget, for a moment, that Fox News's Jerusalem bureau chief is Uri Dan, a friend of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and the author of the preface of the new edition of Sharon's autobiography, which includes a revolting account of the Sabra and Chatila massacre of 1,700 Palestinian civilians and Sharon's innocence in this slaughter. Then Ted Koppel, one of America's leading news anchormen, announced that it may be a journalist's duty not to reveal events until the military want them revealed in a new war against Iraq.

Can we go any further in journalistic cowardice? Oh yes, we can. ABC television announced, a little while ago, that it knew all about the killing of four al-Qa'ida members by an unmanned "Predator" plane in Yemen but delayed broadcasting the news for four days "at the request of the Pentagon." So now at least we know for whom ABC works.

The Pentagon said that the murdered men - and let's not lose sight of the "murdered" bit, though that's not the word ABC used - were between "two to 20" of the top ranks of al-Qa'ida. Really? So were they numbers two, three, four and five in al-Qa'ida? Or numbers 17,18,19 and 20? Who cares? The press are onside. Don't ask who is resisting forthcoming US censorship of the Iraq war. Ask who is first to climb aboard the bandwagon.

In Canada, the situation is even worse. Canwest, owned by Israel Asper, owns over 130 newspapers in Canada, including 14 city dailies and one of the country's largest papers, the National Post. His "journalists" have attacked colleagues who have deviated from Mr Asper's pro-

Israel editorials. As Index on Censorship reported, Bill Marsden, an investigative reporter for the Montreal Gazette has been monitoring Canwest's interference with its own papers. "They do not want any criticism of Israel," he wrote. "We do not run in our newspaper op-ed pieces that express criticism of Israel and what it is doing in the Middle East..." But now, "Izzy" Asper has written a gutless and repulsive editorial in the Post in which he attacks his own journalists, falsely accusing reporters of "lazy, sloppy or stupid" journalism and being "biased or anti-Semitic".

These vile slanders are familiar to any reporter trying to do his work on the ground in the Middle East. They are made even more revolting by inaccuracies.

Mr Asper, for example, claims that my colleague Phil Reeves compared the Israeli killings in Jenin earlier this year - which included a goodly few war crimes (the crushing to death of a man in a wheelchair, for example) - to the "killing fields of Pol Pot". Now Mr Reeves has never mentioned Pol Pot. But Mr Asper wrongly claims that he did.

It gets worse. Mr Asper, whose "lazy, sloppy or stupid" allegations against journalists in reality apply to himself, states - in the address to an Israel Bonds Gala Dinner in Montreal, which formed the basis of his preposterous article - that "in 1917, Britain and the League of Nations declared, with world approval, that a Jewish state would be established in Palestine". Now hold on a moment. The Balfour Declaration of 1917 did not say that a Jewish state would be established. It said that the British government would "view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people." The British refused to use the words "Jewish state".

This may not matter much to lazy writers like Mr Aspen. But when it comes to the League of Nations being involved, we really are into mythology. The League of Nations was created after the First World War - had it existed in 1917, it might have stopped the whole war - and Mr Asper is simply wrong (or, as he might have put it, "lazy, sloppy or stupid") to suggest it existed in 1917.

At no point, of course, does Mr Asper tell us about Israeli occupation or the building of Jewish settlements, for Jews and Jews only, upon Arab land. He talks about "alleged Palestinian refugees" - about as wrongheaded a remark as you can get - and then claims that the corrupt and foolish Yasser Arafat is "one of the world's cruel and most vicious terrorists for the past 30 years". He concluded his speech to Israel's supporters in Montreal with the dangerous request that "you, the public, must

take action against the media wrongdoers". Wrongdoers? Is this far from President Bush's "evildoers"? What in the hell is going on here?

I will tell you. Journalists are being attacked for telling the truth, for trying to tell it how it is. American journalists especially. I urge them to read a remarkable new book published by the New York University Press and edited by John Collins and Ross Glover. It's called *Collateral Language* and is, in its own words, intended to expose "the tyranny of political rhetoric". Its chapter titles - "Anthrax", "Cowardice", "Evil", "Freedom", "Fundamentalism", "Justice", "Terrorism", "Vital Interests" and - my favourite - "The War on..." (fill in the missing country) tell it all.

Meanwhile, rest assured, the journalists are getting onside, to tell you the story the government wants you to hear. ■

Uitnodiging tot een bijeenkomst/ discussie.

Op zondag 12 januari 2003 zal Prof. Tanya Reinhart van de universiteit van Tel Aviv en van Utrecht een lezing houden in de Rode Hoed te Amsterdam. Zij spreekt uitnodiging van de Stichting Een Ander Joods Geluid te Amsterdam.

Onderwerpen zijn o.a. de verkiezingen in Israël op 28 januari 2003 en de gevolgen van een mogelijke oorlog met Irak

Het programma bevat tevens een voordracht van politieke poëzie van en door Aharon Shabtai, een hedendaagse Israëlische dichter, en de schokkende IDFA-documentaire "In the line of Fire" van Patricia Naylor. De bijeenkomst vindt plaats in 'De Rode Hoed', Keizersgracht 102 te Amsterdam. Aanvang: 14.00u precies; einde uiterlijk 18.00 U.

De voertaal van lezing, gedichten en discussie is Engels. De documentaire wordt Engels gesproken. De toegangsprijs bedraagt Euro: 7.50. Telefonische reservering [*] wordt ten zeerste aangeraden; tel: (020) 638 5606 tussen 9.00 U en 17.30 U. De kassa is op de dag zelf open vanaf 13.00 U.

Toelichting: Mevr. Reinhart is hoogleraar linguïstiek aan de universiteit van Tel Aviv en van Utrecht. Buiten haar vakgebied is zij intensief betrokken bij de sociale en politieke aspecten van de Israëlische samenleving en het conflict met de Palestijnen.

In "De Brug" van maart 2002 (een driemaandelijks uitgave van SIVMO) verscheen een artikel van haar hand getiteld: "Het kwaad ontketend" waarin zij betoogt

dat een groot deel van de gebeurtenissen die geleid hebben tot de tweede Intifada, en een aantal gevolgen daarvan, het resultaat waren van een zorgvuldige planning door het Israëlische politieke en militaire establishment. Het programma van de middag ziet er in detail als volgt uit:

1. Aanvang om 14.00u. precies met de documentaire "In the line of fire". Palestijnse en buitenlandse journalisten die werken en filmen voor de grote internationale persbureaus worden geïntimeerd en beschoten door het Israëlische leger. De journalisten filmen ook deze gebeurtenissen.
2. Van ongeveer 14.45u tot 15.15u: eerste pauze
3. Om 15.15u: voordracht van enige gedichten met een politieke strekking door de hedendaagse dichter en vertaler Aharon Shabtai. Hij schrijft voor de liberale Israëlische krant Ha'aretz.
4. Van ongeveer 15.30u. tot 16. 15u: lezing door prof. Reinhart.
5. Van 16. 15u tot 16.45u: tweede pauze.
6. Van 16.45u tot ongeveer. 17. 00u: een tweede voordracht van gedichten door Aharon Shabtai.
7. Van ongeveer 17.00u tot uiterlijk 18.00u zal Tanya Reinhart ingaan op vragen en deelnemen aan de discussie naar aanleiding van haar lezing. Aan de discussie zal ook deelgenomen worden door Aharon Shabtai.

Dit programma-deel zal geleid worden door Ies Monas, bestuurslid van Een Ander Joods Geluid. ■