

Chronicle: One Week Of IDF Genocide

On April 4, Lyndon LaRouche assessed President George Bush's announcement that he would send Secretary of State Colin Powell to the Middle East in one week, as signalling to the Israeli Defense Forces and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, that they had a green light for a week of bloody slaughter in the Palestinian territories, which they had begun with the invasion on Good Friday, March 29.

President Bush April 4: "The Chairman of the Palestinian Authority has not consistently opposed or confronted terrorists. . . . The situation in which he finds himself today is largely of his own making. . . . Given his failure, the Israeli government feels it must strike at terrorist networks that are killing its citizens. . . ."

April 2: Israeli daily *Ha'aretz* reported: "On Arab TV stations (though not only them), one could see Israeli soldiers taking over hospitals, breaking equipment, damaging medicines, and locking doctors away from their patients. . . . Foreign television networks all over the world have shown the images of five Palestinians from the National Security forces, shot in the head from close range; one was apparently the manager of the Palestinian Authority Orchestra. Some of the networks have claimed they were shot in cold blood after they were disarmed."

"The entire world has seen wounded people in the streets, heard reports of how the IDF prevents ambulances from reaching the wounded for treatment. The entire world has heard Palestinian residents saying they can't leave their homes because 'they shoot anyone in the streets.' The entire world has heard testimony of Palestinian families who have been imprisoned in their homes for 72 hours, in some places without electricity or water, and the food is running out. There are also reports of vandalism and looting."

April 3: The attack on the Palestinian security compound at Beitunia was a page from Goebbels' propaganda: The IDF claimed that the Palestinians were sheltering "wanted terrorists," but, in fact, the compound also housed a prison, where the P.A. had detained 200 "terrorists," who surrendered to them, as per agreement with Israel.

In Bethlehem, tanks surrounded the Church of the Nativity, built on the birthplace of Christ. The Israelis said that 200 "armed terrorists" were inside.

President Bush, April 4: "Israel should also show . . . a respect for and concern about the dignity of the Palestinian

people who are and will be their neighbors. It is crucial to distinguish between the terrorists and ordinary Palestinians seeking to provide for their own families."

April 4: At the besieged Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, food was running out, where some 200 people remained trapped by IDF forces. Inside the church, Father Ibrahim Faltas appealed for international help, saying he fears a massacre.

The Paris-based Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) on April 4 denounced what it called the "now constant violation" of patients' right to treatment, and said the IDF had reneged on an agreement to allow the MSF teams to move about in occupied areas.

April 5: According to the *Washington Post*, IDF soldiers went into a Ramallah maternity clinic, and handcuffed obstetricians, turned mothers and newborns out of their hospital rooms to wait in a chilly entry-way, waved off an ambulance arriving with a woman in labor, and searched the entire clinic.

Across the West Bank, the IDF routinely blocked ambulances trying to reach wounded civilians; and other Palestinian patients in need of urgent medical care—kidney dialysis, asthma treatment, cardiac patients, pregnant women—cannot get to hospitals or treatment facilities. Ambulance crews in Ramallah and elsewhere were detained by Israeli troops. The emergency medical teams were forced to strip to their underwear and are questioned for hours.

President Bush, April 4: "The Israeli government should be compassionate at checkpoints and border crossings, sparing innocent Palestinians daily humiliation. Israel should take immediate action to ease closures and allow peaceful people to go back to work."

April 6: Reportedly, 54 Palestinians were killed in the most intensive day of fighting since the Israeli invasion. Fighting was reportedly most intense in Nablus and Jenin, with the IDF unable to consolidate control over the two towns. The Israeli government dismissed President Bush's demands for a withdrawal "without delay." A spokesman for Sharon told AFP: "Once we finish the job, then we will be withdrawing our forces 'without delay.'" Saed Erekat, top Palestinian negotiator stressed to CNN that "Sharon is using the time between now and the arrival of Powell to destroy everything."

P.A. official Abed Rabbo told Al-Jazeera TV, "Today is a day of massacres in Jenin. . . . Other information received from inhabitants of Jenin indicates that, to their knowledge, there are more than 100 deaths until now in the camp. We are currently witnessing a massacre similar to that of Sabra and Shatila, and the same thing is happening in Nablus." He referred to the 1982 massacre at two refugee camps outside Beirut, conducted under the protection of then-Defense Minister Ariel Sharon.

April 8: The fighting and slaughter at the Jenin refugee camp continued unabated. Both tanks and helicopter gunships blasted into the camp. Assault troops went from house to house by blasting through the walls. Bulldozers demolished



The ambulance, destroyed by Israeli forces' rockets, in which the head of the Palestinian health service of the West Bank city of Jenin was killed while trying to save lives. "Genocide by denial of medical care," named in the Nuremberg codes, is one of the war crimes being committed by the IDF throughout the West Bank.

dozens of houses where "terrorists" were alleged to be. The Israelis ordered the camp's 11,000 people to leave their homes and gather into the center of the camp, while soldiers went from house to house "to rout out the terrorist infrastructure." When the terrified population refused, helicopter gunships fired 30 rockets into the camp.

President Bush, April 4: "Israel is facing a terrible and serious challenge. For seven days, it has acted to root out terrorist nests. America recognizes Israel's right to defend itself from terror. Yet, to lay the foundations of future peace, I ask Israel to halt incursions into Palestinian-controlled areas and begin the withdrawal from those cities it has recently occupied. . . ."

April 7: Italy's *La Stampa* reported that Israeli Chief of Staff Gen. Shaul Mofaz told IDF troops, "that in order to reach the military goals of the operation, the fight should last at least four weeks. But we cannot be sure that the international pressure would allow Sharon such time. . . . You must act as if you had only a few hours available."

Peter Hansen, Commissioner General of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine, reported: "The Israeli Defense Forces has made a hellish battleground among the civilians in the Balata and Jenin refugee camps. We are getting reports of pure horror. . . . In the name of human decency, the Israeli military must allow our ambulances safe passage to help evacuate the wounded and deliver emergency supplies of medicines and food."

President Bush, April 4: "The world finds itself at a critical moment. This is a conflict that can widen or an opportunity

we can seize. And so I've decided to send Secretary of State Powell. . . ."

April 8: The IDF began to pull out of some areas, rather like a rapist who has finished with his attack. The *Palestine Chronicle* and other media reported the following escalations: The IDF invaded the Nablus market and arrested 500; more air attacks on the Jenin refugee camps; more troops were sent to Ramallah to the siege of Arafat's compound. The complex at the Church of the Nativity was set on fire, and Israeli snipers killed a Palestinian policeman trying to put out the flames.

Physicians for Human Rights, a Palestinian-Israeli doctors' organization, petitioned the Israeli Supreme Court, demanding it order the IDF to explain why it is bombarding Palestinian hospitals; not allowing wounded Palestinians to reach hospitals for medical treatment; not providing basic necessities for hospitals under occupation, including medications, equip-

ment, and food; and why it is conducting searches inside hospitals, humiliating the medical staff and patients. Many hospitals were cut off from electricity and water for four hours a day, and lack medical supplies, oxygen, blood, vaccinations, and basic foods.

IDF attacks continued against the Church of the Nativity. Father David Jaeger, spokesman for the custodian of Catholic sites in the Holy Land, spoke out: "This is an act of indescribable barbarity. It is a violation of every law of humanity and civilization. It is a violation of the explicit and repeated public and diplomatic guarantees the State of Israel with consequences that will be long-term and incalculable."

April 9: *Ha'aretz* quoted Foreign Minister Shimon Peres himself, that the fighting at Jenin is so intense, "the soldiers are almost not advancing on foot. The bulldozers are simply 'shaving' the homes and causing terrible destruction. When the world sees the pictures of what we have done there, it will do us immense damage. . . . However many wanted men we kill in the refugee camps, and however much the terror infrastructure we expose and destroy there, there is still not justification for causing such great destruction."

President Bush, April 4: "I have no illusions. . . ."

April 10: One day before Powell's arrival, a Hamas suicide bomber attacked a Haifa bus, carrying many IDF soldiers en route to Jerusalem, killing 10, and wounding 20. The P.A. denounced the attack, adding that it proves that Sharon's murderous "anti-terrorist" rampage is not working.

Eyewitnesses in Jenin said the IDF was now digging large holes in and around the refugee camp. Increasingly, reports say these may be mass graves, as in Srebrenica in 1992.