

To: "rapprochement" <rapprochementpalestine@yahoogroups.com>

From: "Rapprochement Centre - Beit Sahour" <gh\_andon@hotmail.com> | [This is spam](#) | [Add to Address Book](#)

Date: Thu, 5 Jun 2003 18:50:24 +0200

Subject: [rapprochement] Fw: Some Lives Are Cheaper than Others

----- Original Message -----

From: "Gila Svirsky" <gsvirsky@netvision.net.il>

To: "Coalition of Women for a Just Peace" <CWJP@yahoogroups.com>

Cc: "Alef list" <alef@list.haifa.ac.il>; "Discussion CWJP"

<CWJP-discussion@yahoogroups.com>

Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2003 3:01 PM

Subject: Some Lives Are Cheaper than Others

> Friends,

>

> Last night in Israel, an evening in memory of Rachel Corrie was held.

> Rachel was the 23-year old member of the International Solidarity Movement

> (ISM) who was killed by a bulldozer as she stood her ground, trying to

> protect a Palestinian home from being destroyed (see [www.palsolidarity.org](http://www.palsolidarity.org)

> for details).

>

> We were about 200 who gathered in Tel Aviv for the event, organized

> jointly by the Israel Committee Against House Demolitions and the

> Coalition of Women for Peace. Most of us were Israelis, as the closure

> still keeps out most Palestinians from the territories. One who did come

> (sorry I missed his name) spoke on behalf of the joint effort at Mas'ha to

> halt the destructive "separation wall" now in construction on Palestinian

> lands. There was also a handful of activists from ISM and CPT

(Christian  
> Peacemakers Team), though these internationals now rarely cross  
into  
> Israel, as the authorities would prevent them from returning to  
their work  
> in the territories.  
>  
> Although the evening highlighted the special qualities of Rachel -  
an  
> incredible young woman who will continue to inspire us all (see her  
> parents' letter below) -- many speakers talked about the  
brutalization of  
> the Israeli army and Israeli society in general, which no longer  
cares  
> about the death and destruction wreaked daily in our name. As a  
result,  
> the army is no longer held accountable for the shooting of any  
> non-settlers or soldiers in the territories. Since Rachel was  
killed, two  
> more ISM members were seriously injured -- Brian had his face blown  
away  
> and Tom lies brain-dead. Shockingly, the army conducted no  
investigation  
> into any of these shootings, even though demands were made on every  
> public, private, and diplomatic level.  
>  
> Just a few days and several kilometers away from where Rachel was  
killed,  
> Nuha al-Mukadame also lost her life -- a 33 year-old Palestinian  
woman who  
> was crushed when the Israeli army destroyed her home in the middle  
of the  
> night. Nuha was killed, her husband and 10 children injured, but  
the army  
> curtly defended its action -- they were targeting the house next  
door --  
> and never looked back. Thus it goes for the 2,006 Palestinians  
killed by  
> Israelis in this Intifada ([www.btselem.org](http://www.btselem.org)) -- some deliberate  
> assassinations, some 'armed terrorists', and some just in the house  
next  
> door.  
>  
> Israeli soldiers do what they like in the territories, with no fear  
of  
> prosecution. The recent efforts to keep out witnesses --  
journalists,  
> human rights workers, humanitarian organizations, and peace  
activists --  
> are not surprising, considering the desire to hide the evidence.  
And I  
> tremble to think what happens when these soldiers return home,  
well-versed  
> in techniques of bullying and humiliating. This is not good for  
anybody.  
>  
> Gila Svirsky  
> Jerusalem