

1-Memorial For Rachel In Rafah

Dear all,

Today we held a memorial ceremony for Rachel Corrie in Rafah. ISMers from Nablus and and

activists from the Christian Peacemaker Team in Hebron arrived in Rafah to pay respects to our murdered friend and to support the group here.

We marched in silence through the city, 15 internationals with more and more Palistinians on the route. By the time when we arrived to the spot where the IOF-Bulldozer took Rachel numbered about 200. We held a ceremony where laying and planting flowers on the ground

a small memorial-monument. I planted three flowers - from ISM Jenin, ISM Sweden and the from a close friend of Rachel.

The IOF was notified in advance that we would hold this ceremony to honour our friend wh murdered two days ago, still they couldn't respect us enough to stay away. Less than 15 m after

we arrived they sent out an APC that drove up to us and started to cover the area with thic smoke. We ignored them and continued our ceremony by walking out in the 3-400 meters desert-landscape that is the so called security-zone on the Egyptian border. The APC follo as

we walked all the way up to the barbed-wire fence and hung an ISM-banner and lay more on the ground.

Provoked by the present APC activists and Palestinians (who has not been able to enter th for

many years) started to confront the vehicle, putting flowers and posters of Rachel on it. Th soldiers acted somewhat restrained in the beggining, one activist was even able to climb th and

hand over a Rachel poster through the lid on top of the APC. Then after half an hour sever vehicles approached, three bulldozers and two more APCs. When we saw that one of the bulldozers,

949-623, was the very same one that killed Rachel things got very emotional, we were all and many activists was crying.

The soldiers now took a more aggressive approach and drove around the crowd in high sp again

putting lifes of activists and Palestinians in great danger. Some activists tried to stand in fr of them but had to jump out of their path not to get run over. They threw some percussion-grenades

and some tear-gas (that dispised in seconds in the dusty Rafah-wind) and activists respor covering them in flowers and pictures of Rachel. Eventually they all left except for the first , and we decided to end our session with a sit-in. We all sat in a minute of silence and we hi speeches before we marced together out of the no-mans land that is normally entered only occupation-armys killer-machines.

We must never forget Rachel Corrie, the sacrifice she made, nor the other international Ai workers that the Israelis have killed.

We must never forget the over 2100 Palestinians that have been slaughtered by the IOF a must never forget the over 22000 that they have injured.

We must continue our work to resist the occupation in any possible way until it is no longer needed. in grief and solidarity,

tobias

Tobias Karlsson

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Jenin area