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APRIL 20, 2011

## **Colonel Pinhas (Pinky) Zuaretz to Testify in Corrie Trial Wednesday, April 27th**

### **Brigade Commander's appearance is moved forward nearly one month**

*(Haifa, Israel – April 20, 2011)* – In a breaking development, an Israeli court has granted the State's request to move the testimony of former Brigade Commander Pinhas (Pinky) Zuaretz to next week, Wednesday, April 27, nearly one month prior to his originally scheduled appearance. A 5-page affidavit for the witness was only issued by the State on Sunday. Attorney Hussein Abu Hussein who represents the Corrie family initially opposed the State request and filed motion for reconsideration citing due process violations.

Colonel Zuaretz was the commanding officer of the Gaza Division's Southern Brigade in 2003, when American peace activist Rachel Corrie was killed. Troops under Zuaretz command were responsible for the military's actions resulting in Rachel's killing in Rafah, Gaza that day. Zuaretz is the highest ranking officer called as a government witness in the civil trial, and possibly, the highest ranking Israeli military officer ever to face cross examination in a civil suit regarding the actions of the Israeli military against civilians in Gaza during the second intifada. His testimony is expected to shed light on the Israeli military's failures as an occupying power to protect civilian life and property in the region.

**WHO:** Oral testimony and cross examination of former Israeli Military Southern Brigade Commander, Colonel Pinhas (Pinky) Zuaretz, by plaintiffs' attorney Hussein abu Hussein.

**WHAT:** Corrie vs. State of Israel, Ministry of Defense; a civil case charging the Israeli military with the responsibility of killing Rachel Corrie in violation of Israeli and international law.

**WHEN:** Wednesday, April 27, 2011, 12:00 (noon) – 16:00

**WHERE:** Courtroom of Judge Oded Gershon, 6th floor, Haifa District Court, 12 Palyam St., Haifa, Israel.

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Please visit <http://rachelcorriefoundation.org/trial> for updates, changes to the court schedule, and related information.

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