

## CENTRAL TRUCE SUPERVISION BOARD

NAME OF CASE: Villages of Ein Ghazal, Ijzim and Jaba

CASE NO: 10

1. Nature of Complaint

It is alleged by the Secretary General of the League of Arab States, the Syrian Government, the Iraqi Army Headquarters at Nablus and by the Lebanese General Staff that subsequent to the commencement of the second truce the Israeli Army attacked the Arab villages of Ein Ghazal, Ijzim and Jaba by land and in the air; It is further alleged that 4000 refugees and tens of thousands of Arabs were either captured or massacred during this attack.

2. Summary of Evidence

The villages of Ein Ghazal, Ijzim and Jaba are in Israeli territory and prior to the commencement of the second truce the inhabitants had been attacking the Israeli traffic on the Haifa-Tel Aviv highway which passes through this area in reprisal for alleged attacks committed by the Israeli forces. There is evidence to suggest that in some instances the Arab attacks in this area were instigated by the Iraqi Army.

On and after 18 July, 1948, the Israeli Army launched attacks by air and land against these villages despite the fact that attempts had been made by the inhabitants of the villages to negotiate with the Israeli Army at the commencement of the second truce. The avowed purpose of these attacks was to make the Tel Aviv-Haifa Highway safe.

The attack on the villages took the form of a military operation. The villages were bombed from the air and shelled by ground forces.

There were a number of casualties amongst the Arab inhabitants. While the number of these casualties cannot be accurately estimated from the available material, it is clear that these casualties did not exceed 130.

A special investigation team was sent to the Jenin area where the inhabitants of these villages are now located. Complete lists were made of these villagers. The figures reported are as follows:

|            | Population as<br>of 12/31/46 | Reported killed | Reported missing | Located |
|------------|------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|---------|
| Ein Ghazal | 2410                         | 22              | 33               | 2464    |
| Ijzim      | 3140                         | 32              | 25               | 4153    |
| Jaba       | 1270                         | 8               | 5                | 1494    |
| TOTAL      | 6820                         | 62              | 63               | 8111    |

No information is available as to whether the Israeli Army suffered casualties or not but some resistance was offered to the Israeli attacks. There is no evidence of Arabs having been captured by the Israeli forces in any great numbers.

With the completion of the attack on the 25th of July, all the inhabitants of the three villages were forced to evacuate. After the evacuation of the villages, the Israeli Army systematically destroyed Ein Ghazal and Jaba. No further damage, however, appears to have been done to the village of Ijzim since the attack.

### 3. Israeli Contentions

The Israeli Army has admitted the attack but claimed it was only a police operation over which the Mediator has no jurisdiction, since such operation was of a purely internal character.

### 4. Board Decision

The Board decides:

1) that it has jurisdiction to deal with the complaint. If the alleged complaint is proved, such complaint will constitute taking military action because the operation was of a military rather than of a police character and in these circumstances, the situation was not in any way changed by the fact that the operation took place behind the Israeli Army lines. Accordingly, the Board does not accept the Israeli contention.

2) that the Israeli Army did take military action against the villages of Ein Ghazal, Izzim and Jaba on and subsequent to 18 July 1948 and that such action constitutes a violation of the terms of the second truce.

3) that the following were considered to be aggravating factors

- (i) The Israeli Army forced the inhabitants of the villages of Ein Ghazal, Ijzim and Jaba to evacuate and it systematically destroyed two of these villages.
- (ii) There was no evidence of the inhabitants of the villages in question having attacked the Tel Aviv-Haifa Highway subsequent to the commencement of the second truce.
- (iii) The Israeli Army attacked despite the efforts on the Arab side to negotiate with the Israeli Army.

W.E. Riley  
Brig. Gen., USMC  
Acting Chairman of Central Truce  
Supervision Board

Dated this 8th Day of September 1948 at Haifa.

APPROVED:

COUNT FOLKE BERNADOTTE  
United Nations Mediator on Palestine  
9 September 1948