



Jeanne Butterfield — "Armed right-wing Israeli settlers camp outside the entrance, making the camp residents feel "like sitting ducks waiting for something to happen." (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Local attorney speaks of Palestinian trip

by Robert Lothian

Jeanne Butterfield, an attorney who recently visited Palestinian communities in areas occupied by Israel, said the experience reminded her of comments made by an African National Congress (ANC) spokeswoman at the Nairobi Women's Conference.

The ANC woman described Israel's support of apartheid, and she drew a parallel between the Afrikaner regime's treatment of Blacks and Israel's treatment of Palestinians, Butterfield said.

Few Palestinians know the true story of the Palestinians because they are portrayed as terrorists in the U.S. media while their history and living conditions are rarely covered, according to Butterfield. Ironically, she said, Israel's harsh treatment of about 1.5 million Palestinians living in occupied lands is covered more critically and objectively in Israel than in the United States, she said.

As a member of a National Lawyers Guild tour to document Israeli human rights abuses, Butterfield visited Jerusalem, the West Bank area, Gaza, and southern Lebanon. "What we found was a situation of extreme repression," she said.

The areas were occupied by Palestinians from the seventh century until 1948, when Israel became a state. Many Palestinians were pushed out of their former homes and into refugee camps then to make way for Israeli settlement. Over 400 Palestinian villages were destroyed in 1948 and since, said Butterfield.

Her slides showed ruined villages, now overgrown, bulldozed Palestinian farms and huge Israeli building projects encroaching on the Palestinian section of Jerusalem.

Over 60,000 Palestinians were pushed out of West Jerusalem in 1948, and Israel continues a policy of "confiscation and settlement" of Palestinian property in East Jerusalem, she

said. One slide showed a huge new Hyatt Regency Hotel being built on former Palestinian farmland. "East Jerusalem is completely encircled," said Butterfield.

Butterfield said she witnessed a similar program in the West Bank area of the Jordan Valley, where Palestinian farms with rich soil and valuable water are being confiscated to make way for Israeli settlements.

"The repression in the West Bank has been particularly harsh in the refugee camps themselves," she said. One camp with 10,000 residents was blocked off by the Israelis who left only a narrow, rocky path for an entrance. "The situation there is basically a siege," she said.

Armed right-wing Israeli settlers camp outside the entrance, making the camp residents feel "like sitting ducks waiting for something to happen," Butterfield said.

In Gaza, one of the most densely populated areas in the world, she said, Palestinians are crammed into eight sprawling camps ringed by Israeli settlements, living 10 to 14 people to a room in corrugated metal houses next to open sewers. The West Bank and Gaza were former Arab lands invaded and occupied by Israel in Mid-East wars, said Butterfield.

During the invasion of southern Lebanon in 1982, according to Butterfield, the Israeli army destroyed farms, crops and over 250,000 citrus trees owned by Palestinian farmers. Terrorist attacks on Israeli soldiers in southern Lebanon often bring violent repression to entire villages, violating the Geneva Accords against collective reprisals, she said.

Under such conditions the Palestinians resist, "and the net result is that the prisons are full." Over 10,000 Palestinians were herded into concentration camps in southern Lebanon, and over 300,000 Palestinians, about one in four, have served time in the West Bank and Gaza for such crimes as growing too many eggplants and painting pictures with the colors of the Palestinian flag, according to Butterfield. Throwing rocks at Israeli soldiers can bring a 20-year sentence, and many Palestinian leaders are under house and town arrest, again similar to South Africa, she said.

Lawyer's Committee on Central America presentation

James W. Russell, an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Lewis and Clark College, visited San Salvador, El Salvador as part of a Delegation of Concerned Professionals for Human Rights in El Salvador from April 30 through May 13, 1985. The Lawyers Committee on Central America is sponsoring a presentation by Mr. Russell which will highlight his experience, especially in relationship to the human rights situation in El Salvador and the development of the popular organizations. The presentation will be accompanied with a slide show. The public is welcome to attend.

This free lecture program on El Salvador will be held at the Portland Public Library, 801 S.W. 10th, Portland, Meeting Room A at 12:15 noon, on Friday, Nov. 1, 1985. Brown bag. Free and open to the public.

ODOT officials find no legal problems with bridge camps

A camp for the homeless could be developed beneath Portland's Interstate 5 bridges, according to Oregon Department of Transportation officials.

Department staff members recently researched legal aspects of a proposal by Portland Mayor Bud Clark to develop transient camps beneath structures east of the Willamette River. Officials found no federal regulations barring the idea.

At the same time, they found no other states providing such a facility.

In a letter sent this week to Clark, ODOT Director Fred Miller outlined some concerns the department had about Clark's proposal.

"These basic issues would need to be addressed if we are to work out a suitable agreement," Miller said.

The issues hold the city responsible for maintenance, sanitation, liability and public safety.

"There must be a clear commitment by local law enforcement officials to regularly police the area and to protect the integrity of the transportation facilities," Miller said.

He said department officials assume the mayor would not undertake the project if local residents and the community did not approve of it.

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USDA Cheese, butter and flour will be distributed to low-income Multnomah County residents on Saturday, Nov. 9, between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Mercy Corps International, a Portland-based humanitarian agency, is providing leadership in the coordination of the commodities program and the food is from the U.S. Department

of Agriculture.

Locations in North and Northeast Portland are: Roosevelt High School, 6941 N. Central, for Zip Codes 97203, 97217, 97229 and 97231; Jefferson high school, 5210 N. Kerby, for Zip Codes 97211, 97217 and 97227; Grant High School, 2245 N.E. 36th, for Zip Codes 97212, 97213, 97218 and 97232.

Emma Chiles honored

Zeta Sigma Omega, the Portland chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, honored Emma Chiles for 50 years of service and continuous membership at a reception held in the PCC Cascade Cafeteria Saturday, Oct. 26, 1985. Emma is a charter member of Zeta Sigma Omega which was established in 1955. She has held every office in the local chapter including president more than once. Currently there are over 90 Alpha Kappa Alpha women in Portland. Nationally and internationally there are over 75,000 members. Pat Dobbins, president of the Portland chapter, welcomed ap-

proximately 200 guests to the reception and told of Emma Chiles' accomplishments.

Emma Chiles became a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority in 1935 in Tucson, Arizona. Through her work as an elementary school teacher in Globe, Arizona, and Portland Public Schools, her work with the Sunday School and usher board of Bethel AME Church, Jack and Jill of America, Urban League, YMCA, Culture Club, Kwanzan Club and Urban League Senior Citizens, she earned her salute for "Service to Mankind."

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Community Directory and profiles

Ads On This Page Are Of Local Businesses That Are Helping Build A Better Community

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