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museum**

جمعية غير حكومية Non-Governmental Association

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"The Military Rule", a Report from the Ilyas Kusa Collection, 1950-1960

Found in Ilyas Kusa Collection, this printed report in English includes information about the Israeli military rule in the 1948 Occupied Palestinian Territory, specifically, in Western Galilee, the Little Triangle, and Beersheba district. With a population of 180,000 Palestinians, the report lists the effects of the military rule on Palestinians living in these areas.

THE MILITARY RULE.

There are in Israel about 200,000 Arabs of whom some 20,000 live in towns and villages outside the military rule, and the remaining 180,000 in three separate military districts, namely:-

Western Galilee	130,000
The Little Triangle	34,000
Beersheba District	16,000

These three districts are governed by army officers and come under the control and direction of the Minister of Defence, Mr. David Ben Gurion.

Travel to and fro these military areas is strictly forbidden without military permits obtainable in military areas from the Military Government Offices, and from the Police Stations in non-military areas.

2. The Military Rule which has been in force since the birth of the State inflicts the following grave injustices and hardships on the Arab citizens:-

- (a) It curtails their freedom of movement.
- (b) It obstructs their businesses and trades.
- (c) It deprives Arab workmen of the opportunity of work.
- (d) It has facilitated the taking away of some 1,250,000 metric dunams of agricultural lands from Arab farmers and villagers.
- (e) It controls the issue of all statutory licences which are issued in non-military areas by the civil authorities.
- (f) It hinders the free change of residence from a military to a non-military area.
- (g) It exercises undue influence and pressure in parliamentary and local elections.
- (h) It interferes in the municipal and local administration of Arab towns and villages.
- (i) In the Little Triangle it imposes a permanent night curfew.
- (j) In the Beersheba district it has established a virtual "Ghetto", preventing the Arabs from leaving their area

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except once a week to Beersheba on "market day".

3. It is noteworthy to remark in connection with the Government's statement regarding the necessity for the military rule that

- (a) The real danger to the safety of the State comes from outside and not from inside,
- (b) The Arab section of the Israeli population has not undertaken any subversive and underground activities undermining the safety, security and peace of the country.
- (c) Prime Minister Ben Gurion had commendably commented before the Knesset in December last on the conduct of the Israeli Arabs before and during the Sinai Campaign as having been exemplary, ~~in spite of the Kafr Qasem tragedy.~~
- (d) All symptoms indicate that the Arabs of Israel have no hostile intentions against the State, and that they are eager to settle down in peace and associate themselves with the State.

4. Relaxation of the Military Rule.

Prime Minister Ben Gurion met with the five Mepai affiliated Arab Knesset members on Friday the 5th July, 1957, and announced to them certain facilities and development schemes which the Government intends to carry out in Arab districts. Of these facilities two relate to the military rule:-

- (a) The abolition of travel permits for the Arabs living in Galilee desirous of proceeding to Acre, Nazareth and Affuleh.
- (b) The easing of the curfew in the Little Triangle.

The two facilities are of trivial significance because

- (a) Most of Galilee Arabs were entitled to go Nazareth without a permit.
- (b) Few Galilee Arabs go to Affuleh ^{and Acre}. It is only connection with official work that they go these two places. The relaxation applies to the town of Affuleh only so that the Galilee Arabs still require military permits to go the Jewish villages.

- (c) The Galilee Arabs and even the Arabs of the Triangle go to Haifa in connection with their businesses and trades, for the purchase of their worldly requirements, for medical treatment, for hospitalization etc. They rarely go to Affuleh or Acre for these purposes.
- (d) The easing of the night curfew in the Little Triangle is of little effect because there are no cinemas or other places of entertainments in the villages, and, as a rule, the villagers keep indoors after 9 p.m.