

Deir Yassin Massacre (1948)

Early in the morning of April 9, 1948, commandos of the Irgun (headed by Menachem Begin) and the Stern Gang attacked Deir Yassin, a village with about 750 Palestinian residents. The village lay outside of the area to be assigned by the United Nations to the Jewish State; it had a peaceful reputation. But it was located on high ground in the corridor between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. Deir Yassin was slated for occupation under Plan Dalet and the mainstream Jewish defense force, the Haganah, authorized the irregular terrorist forces of the Irgun and the Stern Gang to perform the takeover. In all over 100 men, women, and children were systematically murdered. Fifty-three orphaned children were literally dumped along the wall of the Old City, where they were found by Miss Hind Hussein and brought behind the American Colony Hotel to her home, which was to become the Dar El-Tifl El-Arabi orphanage. (source: <http://www.deiryassin.org>)

Natan Yellin-Mor (Jewish) responded to the massacre:

When I remember what led to the massacre of my mother, sister and other members of my family, I can't accept this massacre. I know that in the heat of battle such things happen, and I know that the people who do these things don't start out with such things in mind. They kill because their own comrades have been killed and wounded, and they want their revenge at that very moment. But who tells them to be proud of such deeds? (From Eyal Naveh and Eli Bar-Navi, Modern Times, part 2, page 228)

One of the young men of the Deir Yassin village reported what he has been told by his mother:

*My mother escaped with my two small brothers, one-year old and two-years old. My aunts and their small children were also with her. When the Jews met them on the road, they wanted to kill my small brothers and my aunts' children. My mother and my aunts started to beg them and said: 'We will give you all the gold and money we have, but do not kill our children.' The Jews did not respond to them and they killed my brothers and my cousins. They said: 'Now, go away and tell everyone what you have seen.'*¹

The behavior of the Zionist gangs was meant to spread terror and fear among Arabs and to force them to leave their villages- especially after the Deir Yassin massacre. When Zionist gangs attacked the village of Zir'in on the night of April 20, 1948, as they charged they screamed: "Kadima, kadima (go ahead, go ahead) Deir Yassin, Deir Yassin."²

¹ Nihad Zeitawi, edited by: Sharif Kana'a, *Destroyed Palestinian villages*, Series No. (4): Deir Yassin, Bir Zeit University – Documents and Research center, 1987, p.57

² Ibrahim Mari'i, edited by Shrif Kana'na *Destroyed Palestinian Villages*, Series No. (16). The Village of Zir'in Bir Ziet University, Documents and Research Center, 1994. *An interview conducted with Mustafa Ali Al-Jaber (23-6-1986)*, p.146.

