

Confidential

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Operations Division / Instructional Department / Training
OC Central Command Legal Advisor/ Training Officer
Military Advocate Central Command
West Bank Military Government HQ/ Legal Advisor
21(224)

Re: Training Zones in the West Bank

1. This letter is in reference to a letter from Recipient A., HD 50-600-660, dated July 9, 1967 (to Recipients C and D, A printout of the letter is enclosed).
2. As noted in my letter HK-21(224)1629 dated June 28, 1967, no area shall be designated a firing training zone in the West Bank unless it is an uninhabited and uncultivated area, as expressly stated in Appendix 2 to the letter in reference (paragraph 43, subsection 19).
3. The letter of Recipient A does not indicate whether or not this principle has been kept. However, the letter of Recipient B AD-5-1803 of July 10, 1967 leads to the conclusion that the Command means to use the proposed areas, any presence of civilians or cultivated land there notwithstanding.
4. In our view, civilians cannot be evacuated from an area in order to create training zones for the IDF, both for political and humanitarian reasons, and for reasons related to the provisions of international law. Article 49 of the Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Times of War, to which Israel is party, expressly prohibits the forcible transfer of civilians in an occupied territory, unless so required for imperative military reasons. In the case at hand, it cannot be said that military reasons clearly compel the evacuation of the territories designated to become training zones, and it follows that the forcible evacuation of population from these areas would constitute a breach of the provisions of the above Convention.
5. We repeat, and demand, that only uninhabited and uncultivated land be used for IDF training zones in the West Bank.
6. With respect to drafting the order after an area has been identified and all measures to avoid bodily harm and property damage as a result of conducting training therein have been taken, we propose that the order be drafted by the legal advisor of the Governance HQ, in coordination with the Command legal advisor.

David Kos, Major
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per/ Military Advocate General