

Appendix 7¹

12 January 1949

Military Government of Western Galilee

Subject: Report On the Combing Operation in the Village of Majd Al-Krum On 9 January 1949

Regarding my letter no. 25 of 10 January 1949 concerning the matter above, I would like to draw your attention to the following issues:

1. The conduct of the soldiers towards the inhabitants was extremely boorish. The entire operation was accompanied by curses, insults, and physical abuse on the part of the soldiers, beginning with the officer in charge of the operation, Tsvi Rabinovitch. After checking the identity of each inhabitant, if it was decided that someone was to be expelled, even if merely for being a refugee, he was brought out of the interrogation room with blows and kicks.

The boorishness of the soldiers was at its worst in dealing with the mayor (mukhtar) of the village, Hajj 'Abd al-Salim. Despite the fact that the above-mentioned person was sick that day, he came to the square to be interrogated. The police officer, Mr. Shuwaili, released him. While he was at home, soldiers entered the house and without listening to what he had to say or to his entreaties they fell on him, hitting him with the butts of their rifles and they kicked him in the stomach. As a result of that he suffered an inflammation in his stomach membrane and from a blow to his liver, which necessitated taking him to the hospital in Nazareth where he now lies in a critical condition.

2. During the operation, soldiers from the platoon belonging to Battalion 123 broke into two shops and robbed them. Private homes were also looted, including an alarm clock, clothes and a variety of small items, despite repeated warnings to officer Shlomo not to harm the furniture and the contents of the houses.

Following the operation, I ordered the military police to search the soldiers, and we found most of the stolen items, which were returned to their owners. However, there are still some items missing, and complaints regarding this will be sent to those concerned.

In my opinion we should not keep quiet about this behavior and those responsible should be brought to trial.

Please refer to my letters no. 34 and 44 dated January 10.

(Signed)

Shlomo [No surname]