

Israel Suspends Return of Slain Palestinians' Bodies



Tel Aviv, June 10 (RHC)-- Israel's newly-appointed minister of military affairs has ordered the bodies of Palestinians killed at the hands of Israeli military forces during alleged stabbing and car ramming attacks not be returned for burial in response to a recent shooting in Tel Aviv.

On Thursday, Avigdor Lieberman issued the order following a three-hour security cabinet meeting to discuss measures in the wake of the shooting attack at Tel Aviv's Sarona Market the previous day, which left four Israelis dead and six others injured, Israeli daily Haaretz reported.

Israeli Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan also suggested a complete halt to the return of slain Palestinians and the re-establishment of the cemetery where Israel used to bury purported Palestinian assailants during the Second Intifada, which started in September 2000 and ran through February 2005 and claimed about 3,000 Palestinian lives.

A senior official, informed of the contents of the Israeli cabinet meeting and speaking on condition of anonymity, also said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has ordered the National Security Council to do preparatory work on the cemetery and look into potential repercussions of such a move.

The report came as Deputy Minister of Military Affairs Eli Ben-Dahan said earlier on Thursday that Israeli officials would spare no effort to make life agonizing for the residents of the Palestinian city of Yatta, where the two Palestinian involved in the Tel Aviv shooting attack came from.

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