ASK, Jan 10 2020

**To the City Councils and the mayors in Tromsø, Trondheim, Oslo, Stavanger and Bergen.**

Dear elected representatives, I promised to bring an important wish from a Palestinian Arab to you; about your boycott of goods from the Jordan Valley.

The Palestinian Arab got down on my knees in front of me. He had an important message to give and emphasized it by bending to the floor. His eyes showed despair when he said: "Please, you are from Norway, say the people in Norway that they must not boycott the products produced here in the Jordan Valley, otherwise we lose a ours good jobs. - And we won't be able to work for palistinians, since we have worked in a Jewish-owned company.” On the floor around him there was overflowing amounts of the thickest and sweetest dates. We were in a warehouse in a date factory with Palestinian Arab workers. The man who talked to me was the supervisor. I had just been out in the palm plantation with the owners, a young Jewish married couple. They mentioned the need for new machines costing millions of dollars.

I asked the foreman if he could not start a business himself and become a master of his own house. "Then you do not know our culture, because we like to be done with working by the end of the day and prefere not to have millions in dept” he replied.

I want to tell the country's politicians about that incident. This is the situation for people who need peace and good working conditions. Why make it difficult for them? Why interfere with policy in the area?

OK, let's have a look at the political conditions there ...

The Jews are an ancient indigenous people, connected to the area for about 3,500 years. The Palestinian Arabs are Arabs from it Saudi Arabian Peninsula, and came up towards the area in the mid-600s with Muhammad's caliphs. This area the Romans named Palestine in the year 135 AD, when they won the war over the Jews. Muhammad's caliphs took Jerusalem in 638 AD, and Damascus the same year. Until the 19th century, this area on the Mediterranean was scarcely inhabited; there was more things happening when the Arabs could get a job for the Jews, after Jews began to immigrate in greater numbers from Eastern Europe in the latter half of the 19th century.

During the Palestinian Mandate period, 1917 - 1946/48, the area had bigger immigration by Arabs. Britain was responsible for the entire Palestinian mandate, which covered Transjordan, east of The Jordan River, consisting of 77% of the mandate – that would be freed in 1946, and Israel, west of the Jordan River, consisting of 23% of the mandate – that was to be released in 1948. The United Kingdom also called for work aid from the Arabs, for instance they brought thousands of Arabs from Damascus to expand the port of Haifa. Their descendants are safely integrated into Haifa today.

We remember the peace resolution decisions after World War I, first in the Versailles castle in Paris in 1919, but then the United States was not represented. Therefore, the final decision was made in San Remo Italy in 1920. This decision gave the Jews the entire British mandate. But the Arabs did not want the Jews near, so uproar caused the mandate to be divided along the Jordan River. Transjordan was created as yet another Arab state, and this decision became final and was adopted by the League of Nations upon its establishment in 1922. The United States implemented this resolution. The Arabs were assigned 21 states. These mentioned resolutions are within international law.

During the time of the mandate, no Arabs would call themselves Palestinians; it was the Jews who did that, in short, because they then lived in the British mandate that the British chose to give the same as the Romans had done before. The Arabs first started calling themselves Palestinians in 1964. Then the PLO was established, and they made up the story that they were descendants of the Philistines. But no, the Philistines were descendants The Aegean Islands of Greece, and disappeared before the Arabs appeared. Arafat himself was born and raised in Cairo.

Then we have the re-establishment of Israel in -48, when the new Arab states (Transjordan, Syria, Lebanon and Iraq was established in 1946, but Egypt first in 1956) went to war against Israel. Transjordan took the heights of Judea and Samaria, and called it the West Bank, and renamed their own land Jordan since they controlled land on both sides of the Jordan River. All UN countries rejected what Transjordan did, including them Arab states, except two states. Transjordan annexed Judea and Samaria, the so-called West Bank in 1951. It was an illegal occupation, without international law. Thus, the Arabs cannot demand ownership of these areas.

It's different with Golan. This area was assigned to Syria in San Remo in 1920. Israel took this area in a defensive war in 1967, and considers themselves rightfull to annex this area, because hostile Syria's attacks again and again show that Israel must protect its citizens. (Common law).

When the PLO (Palestinian Liberation Organization) was established in 1964, the Arabs had access to the area they are now struggling to get (the West Bank). Why did they call themselves the Liberation Organization then? They wanted to "liberate" the coastal area, so the Jews would have nothing; that's their goal. This goal is spoken out loud and clear by PLO, so everyone can understand what they mean.

The 6-Day War of 1967: Arabs nations attack Israel one more time, but Israel returned Judea and Samaria in a defensive war. They have the right to retain this area under international law, according to 1920- and 1922- resolutions, which have given them the land.

But then it is preferable that one should have order within the different groups of people in a country. A settlement shall be made between the parties. In the case of Israel, they can annex the land west of the Jordan River, because they have authority in international law to do it. What needs to be fixed is the refugee problem. Israel integrated its refugees which was chased out by the newly created Arab states, while the Arab states found it good to "use" the refugees from newly created Israel in their struggle to wipe out Israel. We know this!

Now 50 years have passed since this war, and yet the Arabs have inflicted another war on Israel. The Arab refugees were granted refugee status by the UN if they had worked in the area for two years or more. Israel has integrated its refugees. Now it is the Arab states that must do the same. To push forward for yet another Arab state in the ancient fatherland of the Jews, and preventing the Jews from living there, is contrary to Indigenous peoples law and normal thinking. I have myself seen the signs in Area A on the West Bank there it says that Jews entering the area will not come out of the area alive. All people can travel to Betlehem, but not Jews. Would we allow an enclave within the country of Norway with a leadership that would wipe us out? Why keep this game going?

Let's think a little freer: Why boycott the Jordan dates when, for instance, the Algerian dates go free? Churches being shut down and christians are prosecuted. In England there is talk of banning public decisions for boycotts. Do we need to get a Boris Johnsen in Norway to put an end to BDS? It is sad to note that several of the our foremost politicians is double-dealing: on one hand, it is easy to give money for investigating anti-Semitism, but also boycotting Israeli enterprises that promote aid and cooperation with those of the Arabs who have been abandoned.

Now I have heard that some politicians in Norway believe that Israel has violated the 4. Article 49 of the Geneva Convention, which states: "The occupying power shall not deport or transfer parts of their own civilian population to the occupied territories. " Then I want to mention Transjordan's attack at newly created Israel in 1948 where Transjordan occupied Judea / Samaria and eastern parts of Jerusalem. All Jews from these places were chased west to Israel. By the 1967 war, 19 years after, when Israel pushed the Jordanians to the Jordan River, the Jews could move back to their homes and properties.

We must also remember that 21 newly created Arab states chased out 800,000 Jews from their countries; most came to Israel. Some of these would live in the fathers' land, and had rights to it (Indigenous Law). In any case, there is no historical basis to say that Israel moved people to possess areas. There is no disagreement among senior lawyers about this.

Firstly, The Jews were assigned to Judea / Samaria and Jerusalem in 1920 after the war, they are consequently the indigenous people of the area, and that means they can live "dense" in their old homeland. (The indigenous population of the Arabs is in Saudi Arabia).

When it comes to the decisions of the Palestinian Arabs, some of them choose to follow Chapter 2, acidic 191 of the Qur'an. It says, "Drive them from wherever they drove you out". It has been interpreted as follows: When one area has become Islamic, by conquest or otherwise, it becomes Islamic forever. This the interpretation is confirmed (in Arabic) by Mahmoud al-Habbash, Mahmoud Abbas's adviser and Pas Supreme Sharia Judge. This perspective was last repeated on PA's official TV station on April 20 2018.

This explains Jassir Arafat's negative reactions after being offered the opportunity to get most of the discussed areas by Prime Ministers Barak and Olmert during peace talks.

Sincerely

Grethe Tangen Olsen (Has a degree in Public Law which includes International Law).

Address: Storekleiven 7, 5307 ASK