ELSC Seminar: Prof. Menachem Hofnung.

December 10, 2015

On the topic of The Invisible Settlement: Integrating Palestinian Informers in Israel

ELSC cordially invites you to the lecture given by:

Prof. Menachem Hofnung.

Department of Political Science, Hebrew University The Hebrew University

On the topic of:

"The Invisible Settlement: Integrating Palestinian Informers in Israel"

The lecture will be held on Thursday December 10th, at 17:00 at ELSC: Silberman Bldg., 3rd Wing, 6th Floor, Edmond J. Safra Campus

Light refreshments at 16:45

Abstract:

What are the social and economic costs of using cohorts of local informers to ensure military control of a hostile territory? In 1994, an Israeli NGO (B’Tselem) published a study entitled "Collaborators in the Occupied Territories: Human Rights Abuses and Violations". The study analyzed the incidents of Palestinians murdered by their own people on suspicions of collaboration with Israeli security forces during the first Palestinian uprising (Intifada 1987-1993). It has been estimated that 900 Palestinians were executed on these grounds during that period. Twenty years have passed, and in the last few years an astounding phenomenon can be documented. Hundreds of Palestinians are turning to the Israeli High Court of Justice and asking to be formally recognized as "informants" (a term commonly used in Israel to denote Palestinian collaborators) or at least as "threatened" persons on the grounds of collaboration. This trend gives rise to the following question: what happened during those twenty years? How did such a scorned tag become a highly desired title, so much so that many Palestinians are willing to petition the highest court of the enemy to officially gain the label of informant (collaborator)? The findings of this research (mainly built on court files) reveal an interesting juxtaposition: a strong Jewish population being encouraged to settle in the West Bank, while simultaneously a constant flow of a relatively weak population of thousands of informants and their extended families (funded by the state of Israel) are being resettled
within Israel. The price of territorial expansion into the periphery (the territories) is the weakening of the
center (Israel within the green line), creating a completely different political and demographic reality than
the one that existed between the Jordan and the sea just a generation ago.

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